BUSINESS / B1
SMC offers $961-M flood control plan

NEWS / A4
Palace declares Aug. 21, not Aug. 23, a holiday

NEWS / A2
Senate OKs, then withdraws 'reso' for Trillanes release

Wanted: Better term for Noy 'private time'

By Cathy Yamsuan

WHAT DOES "private time" mean and how come this had to exist? President seems to be having a lot of it!

The phrase has become a source of mystery and even frustration for some reporters covering President Aquino, who

WANTED: A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, August 12, 2010 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 245 P18

RAMADAN Days of prayers and solemnity

MILF girds for war; Noy braces for talks

Moro rebels amassing guns, undergoing training

By Joeffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

SULTAN KUDARAT, Maguindanao—Ebrahim Murad, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said on Tuesday his group had amassed an arsenal with help from military gunrunners and warned he was prepared for war if peace talks did not resume.

In a rare news conference at the MILF's Camp Darapanan in the midst of a coconut plantation here, Murad said that his group had at least 60,000 weapons as well as its own factory and technology to manufacture rocket-propelled grenades.

"Some of our firearms come from our enemies," Murad said. "Others we buy from gunrunners in the military."

In Manila, however, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda dismissed reports that the Aquino administration was not serious in resuming peace talks.

MILF: A6

ISLAMIC MONTH OF FASTING Young Muslim students read the Koran inside an elementary school in Manila on Wednesday. Muslims around the world abstain from eating, drinking and conducting sexual relations from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. ALEXIS

Fasting, silent guns in time of Ramadan

COTABATO CITY—Calls to prayer, fasting and, in Mindanao, an appeal to keep guns silent marked the start of the holy Islamic month of Ramadan.

For Muslims in the Philippines, the observance officially begins today and will end on Sept. 11, according to Datuk Mike Ibrahim, an Islamic scholar based in this city and executive director of the National Ulama Council of the Philippines.

While fasting, devotees are expected to pray spend their days in solemnity and be generous especially to the poor.

A spokesperson of the influential Darul Ifta or Islamic House of Opinion, which dictates the conduct of religious activities, also appealed to gun owners among Filipino Muslims not to discharge their weapons as a way to celebrate.

"Please refrain from firing your guns," Datuk Jamby Al-wali

FASTING: A6

This time, it's Miriam vs Merci

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor Santiago yesterday launched a broadside at Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, saying her failure to act on the Senate's recommendations regarding its inquiries into certain controversial cases burdened an "criminal neglect."

"The Senate investigations of corruption scandals will be futile if the Ombudsman still not act on these committee reports. The public is waiting with bated breath for the culprits to be punished because the Senate is still cannot punish corrupt officials or send them to jail," Santiago said.

She was referring to the committee reports on the scandals involving the so-called "euro

THIS TIME: A15

Kuratong crime syndicate back, says lawmaker

By Doris Z. Pazzibugan

THE KURATONG BALELENG crime syndicate, which grabbed national attention because of a string of brazen bank robberies, kidnappings and a sensational ambush case against ranking police officers, is still alive and kicking.

In a news conference yesterday in Quezon City, Misamis Occidental Rep. Loreto Ocampos and losing Ozamiz City mayoral candidate Constancio

KURATONG: A8

More investors show interest in Pagcor

By Marlen Ramos
in Manila
and Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

A FILIPINO BUSINESSMAN'S offer to acquire Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) for $10 billion has caught the attention of two groups of investors, the state-run gaming firm said yesterday.

A Hong Kong-based conglomerate engaged in real estate, hotel and casino business has expressed interest in acquiring the gaming firm, Pagcor spokesperson Jay Santiago said.

Talk about Pagcor's privatization has also attracted the group of businessman Willy Ocier, vice chair of property and gaming firm Belle Corp., according to Santiago.

"We expect that these discussions about the privatization would draw the attention of other investors," he said.

President Aquino favors the privatization of Pagcor but wants the gaming firm to be in good shape first to make its sale to private business more palatable.

Ramon Ang, San Miguel Corp. vice president, earlier told the Inquirer that he was interested in buying Pagcor and that he could have Malaysia's "big boys," including Robert Kuok, to raise $10 billion to acquire Pagcor and run gaming establishments in the country.

Through his spokesperson in Manila, however, Kuok—owner of the Shangri-La chain of luxury hotels—denied reports that he was interested in Pagcor.

MORE: A15

A CARABAO stands placidly as a farmer shows his opposition to the Hacienda Luisita compromise deal.

Luisita now a militarized zone, say farmers against land deal

By Leila B. Salaverria
and Jocelyn R. Uy

CHURCH-BACKED farmers seeking the distribution of Hacienda Luisita (HLI) to its tillers said yesterday the sugar plantation had become a militarized zone, prompting them to seek President Aquino's help in returning his family's estate to distribute freely a deal offered by his cousin managing the company.

"It is heavily militarized," said Jobert Pahilga, a lawyer for the unions opposing the stock distribution option (SDO), which HLI announced on Monday had been approved by 70 percent of its 10,000 workers.

"Every passenger bus a mili-

LUISITA: A10

Toll road VAT to trigger hike in fares, goods

By Paolo G. Montecillo

INCREASES IN FEES scheduled for Aug. 16 on all toll roads in the country may result in higher public transport fares and even drive up the costs of basic goods like food coming into Metro Manila from the provinces.

Transport groups on Wednesday said that without a fare hike, the imposition of the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) on toll would severely cut the daily income of bus and jeepney drivers.

The tax on toll will cover the North Luxon Expressway Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), Skyway (the elevated and ground levels), South Luxon Expressway (SLEx) and Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR).

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has said it expects to collect P1 billion a year from the imposition of VAT on toll, which will go a long way in aiding the cash-strapped Aquino administration's poverty alleviation efforts.

TOLL: A10

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TRILLANES

Senate OKs, then withdraws 'reso' for Trillanes release

By Gil Cabunegan

SENATORS had passed a resolution seeking custody of detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes but withdrew it yesterday after Sen. Jokoer Arroyo pointed out that some of its clauses were misleading.

Senate Resolution 64, which reiterated the Senate's previous calls to allow Trillanes to attend legislative sessions and urged the court to transfer custody of the military rebel-turned-senator to the Senate, was approved Tuesday night after it was signed by 16 senators led by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

Trillanes, a former naval officer jailed for participation in a military mutiny in 2003, won a Senate seat in 2007 but has not been allowed out of his cell to attend legislative sessions.

'Apparent injustice'

During yesterday's Senate session, Arroyo stood up and pointed out that Resolution 64 was misleading when it claimed that the Senate adopted Resolutions 3 to July 2007 ("Resolving the issue of the Senate that Senator Antonio Trillanes IV be allowed to participate in his sessions and other functions in accordance with the rule of law") and Resolution "No. to November 2008 ("Amending the rules of the Senate to incorporating rules to allow senators to participate in Senate sessions, hearings, and meetings through remote or electronic means"). Arroyo said Resolution 3 was adopted but never implemented, and Resolution No was filed but never adopted.

Arroyo also said it was wrong for the Senate to urge the Judiciary to swiftly act "apparent injustice (disallowing Trillanes from attending the sessions)."

The majority agreed to withdraw Resolution 64 and subject it to further review.

Qualified

Apart from Enrile, the other senators who endorsed the resolution were Alan Peter Cayetano, Pia Cayetano, Jinggoy Estrada, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Sergio Osmeña III.

Those who signed but qualified their endorsement with the phrase "with due respect to the court proceedings," were senators Pemalde Drilon, Panfilo Lacson, Ralph Recto, Gregorio Honasan II, Francis Pangilinan, and Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Among those who did not sign the resolution were Arroyo, Edgardo Angara, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Manuel Lapid, Manuel Villar and Ferdie Lacson.

Noy wants SK polls scrapped

By Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT Aquino would like to do away altogether with the youth council (Sangguniang Kabataan) elections—scheduled for October with the barangay elections—in order to cut costs.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said yesterday a draft bill is already being prepared which, "with the help of our allies in Congress," could be passed well before the October polls.

Instead of a Sangguniang Kabataan, composed of a chair and seven members, youth voters will be asked to vote for just one youth representative who will sit in the barangay council, according to the draft bill.

The bill also proposes to cut the term of the barangay officials who will be elected in October to end in May 2013 in time for the elections that year. Barangay elections will subsequently be held simultaneously with national and local elections.

"The purpose really is to save costs," Lacierda said.

He said preliminary talks are being held with the President's allies in Congress for the timely passage of the proposed bill.

The Commission on Elections, meanwhile, urged lawmakers to decide as soon as possible whether to go ahead with the barangay and SK elections Oct. 25 or postpone them to Oct. 31.

Less cheating, vote-buying in May polls, says survey

MOST ADULT Filipinos said there was less cheating and vote-buying in the May 2010 elections, compared to previous elections, a Pulse Asia survey showed.

Sixty-six percent of the 1,800 adults interviewed from July 1 to 11 said there was less cheating in the recent elections, while 11 percent said there was more cheating, and 23 percent said there was as much cheating as before.

Belief that there was less cheating was most prevalent in Metro Manila and among members of socioeconomic class ABC (84 percent). It was least prevalent among members of class E (56 percent).

Meanwhile, 81 percent said they did not receive any offer of money or material things to exchange for their vote. This is "slightly higher" than the 2007 figure (77 percent), according to Pulse Asia.

Vote-buying incidence was highest in the Visayas (25 percent), and lowest in Metro Manila (9 percent, the survey said.

Seventy-two percent of respondents considered the results of the 2010 elections more credible than past results. Eight percent said the latest results were less credible, and 17 percent said there were just as credible as previous election results.

Sixty-one percent believed the conduct of the 2010 elections contributed greatly to the promotion of Philippine democracy. Eleven percent believed otherwise, while 27 percent were ambivalent on the matter.

The survey had a sampling error margin of plus or minus three percentage points.

Nearly half (49 percent) of respondents believed that most influential media practitioners were hit in their election coverage. Twenty-one percent had a contrary opinion, and 30 percent were undecided on the issue.

Eighty-nine percent said the counting of votes for senators, party-list groups and local posts was honest than before. Ninety percent said the canvassing of votes for president and vice-president was fairer than in previous elections.

Of the 84 percent who were able to cast their ballot, 56 percent took as most an hour to vote (beginning with their arrival in the precinct and ending with the application of indelible ink on their finger). Seventy percent spent between one to two hours, and 20 percent took more than two hours to vote.

Forty-six percent knew of registered voters who were unable to vote. Fifty-four percent of them attributed many disenfranchisement to long lines in precincts, while 46 percent attributed it to names missing from the list of voters.

— Cyrill L. Bautchista, Inquirer Research

GMA out as defense witness for Ampatuans

FORMER PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been removed from the list of possible witnesses for the defense in the case against the Ampatuan family members implicated in the Maguindanao massacre, according to a defense lawyer.

Lawyer Gregorio Narvasa II made the manifestation during the pre-trial conference of the multiple-murder case before the raffle of Quezon City Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes.

Witnesses for the defense

He did not offer any reason for removing Arroyo from the list of prospective witnesses submitted by defense lawyers last week.

Under the rules of court, an accused can ask the court in subpoena a person as a defense witness subject would require him or her to testify.

According to private prosecutor Nena Santos, she had said Senate Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera that the former President "got very angry" when she learned that her name had been included in the list.

Devanadera and former Justice Secretaries Alberto Agra and Raul Gonzalez were in the list of witnesses for the defense submitted by lawyers yesterday.

They are among 268 witnesses that the defense panel intends to call to the stand.

The prosecution panel submitted additional prosecution witnesses, bringing the total number of prosecution witnesses to 227.

Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon told the court the prosecution would be presenting as part of the evidence records of real estate properties of the Ampatuans in Maguindanao province and the cities of Davao, Cotabato, Mandaluyong and Makati.

— Sitsay Carvajal

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ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Gabriela refiles bill legalizing divorce

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PATRIOTIC party-list group in Congress yesterday refiled a controversial bill to legalize divorce in the country.

Gabriela Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan said divorce was an option to end domestic violence and other forms of abuse in marriages.

"Many women in abusive marital relationships, due mostly to economic dependence, are trapped in violent marriages. Divorce would give 'married couples in irreparable marriages' another legal remedy that they can resort to as an alternative to the country's existing laws on legal separation and annulment."

They said a divorce law could help put an end to domestic violence still prevalent among married Filipino couples.

The Philippines is one of only two countries in the world (excluding the Vatican) that has not legalized divorce.

"For women in abusive marital relationships, the need for a divorce law is real. It is high time that we give Filipino couples, especially the women, this option," said Ilagan and Jer Jr. also in the bill's explanatory note.

Five grounds

The refiled measure, now titled House Bill No. 1799 (An Act Introducing Divorce in the Philippines), lists down five grounds for the filing of a petition for divorce:

1. Petitioner has been separated de facto (in fact) from his or her spouse for at least five years at the time of the filing of the petition and reconciliation is highly improbable;

2. petitioner has been legally separated from his or her spouse for at least two years at the time of the filing of the petition and reconciliation is highly improbable;

3. when the spouses suffer from irreconcilable differences that have caused the irreparable breakdown of the marriage;

4. when one or both spouses are psychologically incapacitated to comply with the essential marital obligations;

5. in case of the grounds for legal separation that has caused the irreparable breakdown of the marriage.

Opposition

The refiling of the bill quickly elicited an objection from Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, who said, "That is like giving a married couple a weapon of mass destruction that they can use against each other even for petty, solvable marital problems."

Bukas party-list Rep. Irwin Tieng also said his group was against divorce because it was tantamount to giving troubled marriages an "out clause from a very important union." He suggested "preempting" the dissolution of marriages by effective counseling or "better family relational" programs from the Church, government and volunteer groups.

The bill's authors, however, said a divorce law would address the issue of domestic violence. Police statistics in 2009 showed that 19 women a day fall victim to marital violence.

Rains fail to dampen spirits of Mutya bets

By Armie Aduna

EVEN a heavy downpour failed to dampen the spirits of the Mutya ng Pilipinas candidates who were officially presented to the media at the poolside of Bonberry World Hotels in Ocean City yesterday.

The 24 contestants, who signed the intent they pounded to their black Charles Jourdan swimsuits, may have good reason to maintain a cheerful disposition despite the gloomy weather.

The pageant's new management team, dominated by women, has brought a higher level of excitement to the 42-year-old beauty contest.

The new team is led by Ramona Ledesma, retired general of Binalot, and national pageant committee chair Tini Fortuna, managing director of Bubble-works Production Inc. which signed a partnership deal with the pageant's owners.

Ledesma's directive to said people should expect to see "a very different Mutya this year. They have to watch out. We'll give them a pleasant surprise."

"It's an honor to be a part of this group and to celebrate the beauty of the Filipina in this way," said 23-year-old Bataan beauty Jessica Soho, who said she was drawn to the contest because of its tourism advocacy.

"We want to transform the organization and make it the most prestigious beauty pageant to represent the country," said Fortuna.

But the Mutya ng Pilipinas has not been new to changes, having been the one to introduce more ground-breaking innovations to the local pageant scene through the years.

Mutya was the first national pageant to take advantage of the popularity of reality television through the movie-long "Beauty Beauty Queen" program on ABC5 in 2006.

REAPPOINTED NAMRIA ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Peter N. Tiangco (right) takes his oath of office as reappointed administrator of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) before Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje in a simple ceremony at the DENR head office on 29 July 2010. Prior to his reappointment by President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III, Administrator Tiangco served as DENR-NAMRIA administrator under the previous administration for four months and deputy administrator for nine years. Administrator Tiangco obtained his Ph.D. in Geomatics from the University of New South Wales in Australia, his M.Sc. degree in Natural Resources Management from the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand, and his B.S. degree in Forestry from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños.

Palace declares Aug. 21, not Aug. 23, a holiday

By Carlo Vernuan

HONORING his predecessor's holiday nonsense policy, President Aquino yesterday restored the commemoration of his father's death anniversary to Aug. 21, Saturday instead of following the law that set its observance on the nearest Monday, Aug. 23.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said Aug. 23 would be a regular working day.

The office of Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa released an announcement last night "declaring the observance of Ninoy Aquino Day on Aug. 21 as a nationwide special (non-working) holiday."

Republic Act No. 9492 or the holiday economics law, which rationalized the celebration of national holidays, amended some provisions of the Administrative Code "by declaring that certain holidays are to be moved to the nearest Monday unless otherwise modified by law, earlier or proclamation."

The announcement also explained that observing the slain senator's death anniversary on its actual date instead of Aug. 23 will avoid the imposition of unnecessary financial burdens upon the employers to ensure the continuity of government, business, and commercial transactions, permits, productions, while at the same time preserves the solemnity of the observance."

Cabinet members agonized for hours on Monday over whether or not to issue a directive President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclamation that set the observance on this day.

In a news conference earlier this week, Lacierda mentioned the President's "personal sentiments" in the matter. Malacañang had not yet confirmed the date set under the holiday economics policy.

"We had an interesting discussion," Lacierda said in yesterday's press briefing. "Some Cabinet members wanted to maintain (the holiday on Aug. 23), some (did not) want to ... make it a holiday."

"In the end, the President made a decision," he said.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

11 August 2010

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (CODAC), invites Consulting Firms to Apply for Eligibility and Shortlisting for the consulting projects funded by the Government of the Philippines (GOP).

Name of Project	Brief Description of the Project	Type	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Type of Procurement	Evaluation Procedure
Development and Production of Drawing Materials for DOH Corporate Communication RFI-CS-DOP-2010-03	Development of a creative and execution concept strategy for a comprehensive imaging and positive campaign that evaluates and leverages the corporate logo, print their instructional design for the advertised products capability/data brochures, applicable communication media like newsletter, website and relevant collateral materials.	PSF	PHP 6,500,000.00	Public Bidding	Quality Cost Based Evaluation

1. The DOH now calls for the submission of eligibility documents. Interested consulting firms must submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and obtain the Eligibility Documents from the above consulting projects at 2/F Building 6, CODAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline of submission of eligibility documents shall be on the date of the opening of the Eligibility Documents: **04 August 2010, 1:30 PM** at said Building 6, CODAC Conference Room. For certain components, the Civil Service Applications for eligibility and job orientation is non-discriminatory. **"Nationalities" shall be observed.**
2. The CODAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents/expressions of interest and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184, and is restricted, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizen of the Philippines in accordance with Republic Act 5183. All the interested local consultants will be rejected. The consultant will be awarded to the "Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who also determined as such during post-qualification.
The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Eligibility Documents.
4. The consultant cannot associate or subcontract unless indicated above. Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 70% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated.
5. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Department of Health at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Consulting firms and individual consultants should download and print the REI in the PhilGEPS website (www.philgeps.com) or through its facsimile at 926-02-31 to 36.
For further information, please refer to:

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Website: www.doh.gov.ph; Email: codacsecretariat@yahoo.com.ph

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and/or reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for its action.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, CODAC

EO2 splits Subic board; Palace asked to clarify

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A raging debate about compliance with President Aquino's second executive order on midnight appointments has divided the board of directors of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), and may have toppled a ranking official.

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza and four Executive Order 2 foe "signs, so we are seeking clarification from Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa."

"While EO 2 reportedly declared vacant three positions that the affected board members occupy, it doesn't say whether they can act on a holdover capacity until they are replaced," he said.

"This is not republican yet because it's only been a week," he said.

"But if it takes longer than a month then it will [cripple] the SBMA Board's ability to function. But we are not challenging EO 2. If some board members do so, then they are only acting in their personal capacities," he said.

Lawyer Eddie Tamondong, an SBMA board member, had challenged in court Mr. Aquino's second directive that commanded all midnight appointees of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

He also filed a supplemental petition on Tuesday arguing that the executive order is flawed because "it was signed by Ochoa, not Mr. Aquino."

Tamondong's petition said, "Members on the face of EO 2 does it appear that the same was signed by the Executive Secretary 'by authority of the President.'

"And what is more, as provided for by the Administrative Code, the Executive Secretary may only attest to executive orders, and I have] not sign it himself."

"Thus, Executive Order No. [is] indubitably null and void for not being compliant with the laws and rules/issuances required by law, or most pointedly, because it is not signed by the president, but only by his Executive Secretary who has not been authorized by the President to sign for him."

SBMA Chief Feliciano Salvaña said in a statement posted at the agency's website that the board of directors "has no plans of challenging President Aquino's Executive Order No. 2."

"This move is not being initiated by the SBMA board as a whole, but only by some members who are affected by the EO. The board has not passed any resolution to that effect," he said.

Sharon Ito, Aquino's director, recommended the services of Mario Guevara, Indira Sario, Ricardo Goco-Bunik, Jesus Mercene, Marvic Monik, Angelito Cruz, Alex Cajimo, Ariel Ureta, Jorge Icasiano, Primitivo Garcia and Jose Adler Teng, who were all appointed on March 1. Robert Gonzaga, Jaquilyn Carreon Lazon

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Dacer-Corbito accused wants trial judge out

By CJ Yap

PNP of the accused in the Dacer-Corbito murders trial are seeking the inhibition of the Manila judge hearing the case, citing perceptions that she is favoring the prosecution.

In a hearing yesterday, Judge Thelma Bunyi-Medina of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18 heard the motion of the five accused who said she had shown bias particularly in her handling of the case of one of the accused, PGCI Senior Superintendent.

The court gave the government prosecutors 15 days to file their comment before she could resolve the joint motion filed on Aug. 4.

The accused cited Medina's "blatant disregard" of Santiano's constitutional right to a speedy trial when she denied his motion to be discharged following the testimony of a state government witness, former Senior Supt. Glicerio Jurado, that Santiano was never part of the team assigned to the Dacer-Corbito case.

Jurado had told the court that Santiano is not innocent of the charges and that in his original affidavit he was referring to a certain "Mario Santiano" and not "Thomas Santiano."

But when Santiano asked to be discharged from the case, Medina denied the motion on the ground that the presentation had not yet ended in case.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 12, 2010
19th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dt 1:21-31
Gospel: Mt 20:20-28

Then asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive the offenses of my brother or sister? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who decided to settle the accounts of his servants. Among the first was one who owed him ten thousand gold talents. As he was not able to pay the debt, the king commanded that he be sold as a slave with his wife, children and all his goods in payment.

"The official threw himself at the feet of the king and said, 'Give me time, and I will pay you back everything.' The king took pity on him, and not only set him free but even canceled his debt.

"But the official, after he left the king's presence, met one of his companions who owed him a hundred pieces of silver. He grabbed him by the neck and almost strangled him, shouting, 'Pay me what you owe!' His companion threw himself at his feet and asked him, 'Give me time, and I will pay everything.' The other did not agree, but sent him to prison until he had paid the debt.

"When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were indignant and went and told the king everything that had taken place. Then the king summoned his official and said, 'Wicked servant! I forgave you all that you owed when you begged me to do so. Weren't you bound to have pity on your companion as I had pity on you?' His lord was now angry, so he handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back all his debt. So will my heavenly Father do with you unless each of you sincerely forgives your brother or sister."

When Jesus had finished this teaching, he left Galilee and arrived in the border of Judea, on the other side of the Jordan River.

Commentary:

"How many times must I forgive?" asked Peter. If he is like many of us, he was thinking, How many times is enough?

Christianity is not passive.

There is no room for inhaction here.

But there is room in it for an end of forgiveness.

I am required to forgive the sin against me as God forgives me.

Unlimited.

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Commentary: Translation from the Spanish by Fr. Jose Aldazabal, L.C. Text: Fr. Jose Aldazabal, L.C. Publisher: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 00120 Citta del Vaticano. Tel. 06 698 45780. Fax 06 698 85164. Email: commerce@libreria.va. Web: www.libreria.va. Publisher's Note: The Daily Gospel is also available in Spanish, Italian, French, German, Portuguese, Polish, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese. Visit www.dailygospel.va for more information.

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OFWs hit six-month contribution to Pag-Ibig

By Jerome Aning

(MANILA) PEOPLE) workers and their employers alike are up in arms over the compulsory six-month contribution OFWs are now forced to make to the Home Development Mutual (Pag-Ibig) Fund even before they could leave to start work abroad.

The OFW group Migrante International described the mandatory contribution as another form of "legalized forcing (unjust enrichment) to swell the coffers of the Pag-Ibig (behind its own)," (sum) on the original, and still popular, name of the fund, which was "Pagtutulungan sa Kinabukasan: Ikaw, Bangko, Industriya at Gobyerno."

"This added burden is unfair, unreasonable and we question its real intent," said Migrante chair Gary Martinez in a statement.

Martinez called on the government to stop the implementation of Republic Act No. 9679, saying that "if the President has the interest and welfare of OFWs at heart, he should first conduct consultations with OFWs before imposing more unreasonable and onerous fees."

Job for Jojo

Martinez said they also plan to bring the OFWs' opposition to the attention of Pag-Ibig Agustin Binay chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration recently issued a memorandum compelling OFWs to pay upon registration and deployment, or initial membership contribution of P6,000 for six months or a year equivalent to the issuance of their Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC).

The circular became effective on Aug. 2, as a result of RA 9679, or the Home Development Mutual Fund Law of 2009, which places informal sectors under mandatory Pag-Ibig coverage.

Martinez said RA 9679 states the fund should come from the "mandatory contribution in support of the employees."

It also states that "failure or refusal of the employer to pay on remit – shall not prejudice the right of the covered employee to the benefits."

He said the law became "muddled and misleading" as its implementing rules and regulations.

"These irregularities once again retold the retard posing an added cause for the employers in the OFWs. Despite what is clearly stated in the law, the government unfortunately has no mandated mechanism to ensure that the employers would pay their dues. Moreover, can we really count on the employer to pay the contribution of the OFW alien, sometimes, the employer would not even pay wages?" he said.

No objection

For its part, the Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. said it had no objection to the mandatory Pag-Ibig membership for OFWs but to the implementing rules.

Past president Victor Fernandez is said Pag-Ibig was a way for OFWs to save for the future, build assets and provide a tangible "raison" or reason for working overseas and making worthwhile their sacrifice of being away from their loved ones.

Private firms objection is to ruby common employers are being used as membership implementers and why the compulsory contribution is tied to the processing and documentation of OFWs' travel papers, he said.

"Why tell the OFWs to be deprived of their rights to employment if they do not pay before their departure? Why can't they just be made a member before departure and be made to pay when they are ready?" he said.

Fernandez also wondered how the six-months advance payment figure was arrived at. "Why not three months? Why not one year in advance? Why set payment depending on the duration of the contract? Why not a month, to paid by breadwinner instead?" he said.

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MILF girds for war; Noy braces for talks

From page A1

"[We] promised in the State of the Nation Address that we will start the peace process after Ramadan," Lacierda said in a news conference.

"Out of respect for the season of Ramadan, we are not doing anything now. I hope that the MILF does not misconstrue the motion to not willing to enter into the peace process," he added.

In Tuesday's news conference, Murad said the MILF had joined hands politically from months to days of basic [illegible] of Bonn in 120,000 members for various purposes.

"That's how we operate," said Murad, who succeeded the late Salamat Hashim in 2003 as MILF chief.

"We have cautioned the war for more than 50 years and our people remain committed to carry on the struggle from generation to generation," Murad said. "If we are ready for peace, we are also ready for war."

Military ready

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command, said the MILF could not use their claims of strength and firepower around as leverage.

"If they are ready for war, we are also prepared to go to battle," Cabangbang said.

"We will not permit them to gain more ground while we have peace talks. They must show they are sincere."

Murad has said time is running out for peace talks because resupply and more radical guerrillas are keen on negotiations.

Talks also take over the MILF leadership.

Cabangbang, however, said keeping members in tow was the responsibility of current MILF leaders.

"If they cannot control them [the rebels], then they must leave their organization," Cabangbang said.

Gov't cautiously confident

Iñiguez said the MILF cannot claim the talks from "where we left off last June 5."

He said, however, that the government remains confident on what's ready to go on the table. "For us, the only way ... is forward."

Iñiguez said attempts to "start the talks from scratch, breaking the talks and replace the facilitator of the talks ... are serious preparations that can delay or even impede the peace talks."

The talks collapsed in 2008 when the Supreme Court junked a proposed memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain that would have expanded autonomous territory that would be governed by a body headed by the MILF.

Combat training

Also yesterday, the Associated Press said that the military had monitored at least nine separate combat training exercises by hundreds of Moro fighters and armies at their strongholds in Mindanao in the first half of the year, according to a military report that alarmed national security threats. The news agency said it had seen a copy of the report.

Many guerrillas have been holding combat training and "acquisition of logistics to ensure readiness if the peace talks will not prosper," the report said, adding the rebels planned to intensify kidnappings and extortion to gain funds.

About 200 rebels underwent training on combat tactics for three days in March in a hamlet in coastal Maguindanao province, the report said.

Several guerrillas joined a month-long training on small-arms gathering in the same camp that month, while 247 supplies received on [illegible] Moro Direct Fire, the report said.

About a hundred recruits were given basic military training for three months in Lanao del Sur starting in March. Other training exercises involving an undetermined number of rebels were conducted until [illegible] the report said.

Not a sign of bad faith

MILF negotiator Mohagher Iqbal acknowledged the group had conducted training exercises and new weapons intake, he said. And bases obtained in the past from local and foreign sources, mostly guerrillas themselves.

"That's normal for a revolutionary group," Iqbal told the Associated Press. "It's not a sign of bad faith because these have always been two separate tracks: the problem remains unresolved—the peace process or war."

Iqbal, however, said that his group had optimistically focused on the "peaceful track" and would concentrate its peace panel once the government begins negotiating based on terms.

He denied that Moro rebels planned to resort to kidnappings to raise funds, saying the MILF had refused recently an overture from said countermeasures.

More than 120,000 people have died in the decades-long conflict in Mindanao. With reports from Normyn Kandakan in Manila and AP

Fasting, silent guns in Ramadan

From page A1

in knowledge amid an local talks.

Some Muslims have traditionally embraced Ramadan by fasting and by refraining from [illegible] in injuries. In the last five years, at least five persons have been reportedly hit by stray bullets during this holy season.

He reminded that the deadly practice would only taint the image of Islam and that "in whatever in the Holy Koran it is outlined that firing of guns is part of the celebration."

He urged Muslim gun owners to instead share their blessings with the poor and the sick. "This season is time to bury bullets and be devoted to the poor," he said.

Ur instead of expending our bullets, buy electric fans or light bulbs and donate them to mosques where most of our people pray," Ali added.

In Mindanao, President Aquino and his hoped Ramadan would see social reconciliation in a heavily Roman Catholic country. to boost its profound poverty and corruption along with a long-running Moro insurgency.

Across Muslim world

The first day of Ramadan was observed on Wednesday in Egypt, the most populous Arab nation, in South Arabia, Indonesia, in South Arabia, Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation.

Muslims in much of the Middle East began the fasting month during an especially prolong time of the year, with swelteringly heat and extremely long daylight hours.

Religious authorities in Saudi Arabia announced the sighting of the crescent moon on Tuesday evening, fixing the start of the month-long of the holy Islamic calendar on the following day.

Officials in Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinians territories, Qatar, Syria, Libya, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Algeria and Tunisia also announced a Wednesday start to the month.

The same was true for Islamic Muslims in Iraq, but the Sunni Shiite community will not begin fasting until Thursday, as is the case many times.

No sex

Muslims observe the Ramadan by abstaining from food, drink and sex from dawn until sunset. Pregnant and nursing women, the sick, travelers and prepubescent children are exempt from the fast, which is one of the five pillars of Islam.

Ramadan began amid searching temperatures in the Middle East and elsewhere, with the hot sun months of 2010 being the warmest ever recorded.

Egypt, the largest Arab country where 80 million population is mostly Muslim, will switch its winter time for the month, moving the clock back by an hour.

The same will be true in the Palestinian territories.

In Dubai, a cheap cold weather, They are reluctantly allowed to break their fast if the heat get the better of them.

Sleeping is cheating

Most Friday Muslim go about their business as usual, Following an hour or two from work. Shopping will into the day, although it is traditionally a fat Sunday is an subject during by some days.

Police morning, with additional operational property in the evening. Often, to clear the evening and nighttime revelry for those able to get themselves away from the special Ramadan television seen in the evenings.

The month is marked by hardly vanity prohibitions to compromise glory—the meals that Dwash the fast.

Parliament can last into the early morning. In the consideration of traditional clerics who ensure the month, in which Muslims have God revealed the Koran to the Prophet Muhammad.

Egypt, which depends on tourism, is offering rich Arab hotels' lavishes fireworks, concerts, folkloric dances and displays by shaking drummers.

But given the bomb-scattered traditions of the month, visiting people to leave their resorts, [illegible].

Closed bars, antipore drive

Egypt's bars and pubs either close during the month or switch to discriminate menus, safely the exception of hotel bars, which serve alcohol only to non-Egyptians to conform with the Muslim ban on alcohol.

Dubai, one of the most popular Middle East cities for party-goers, closes its night clubs or bans dancing in them.

Consumption of alcohol in the United Arab Emirates is officially allowed only for non-Muslims, But in practice, anyone can drink at licensed hotels and clubs. During Ramadan, hotels close off their lavishest public views.

Indonesia will take the opportunity to crack down on Islamist pornography.

Quoting a quote at a press conference on Tuesday, Communications Minister Tifatul Sembiring called on Muslims to "keep [their] fasting body smell," and said that he would target websites and media that control sexual content.

Faster despite fast

Despite the fasting, some clerics complain that Ramadan making eating the people during the month, as they eats indulge to compensate for the fasting. The consumption establishes quite increases.

In Mauritania, the government announced "urgent instructions" to limit the fast to prices.

The global rise in food prices, coupled with the Ramadan spike, also means that less can afford a traditional theme of the month—charity.

Long-line tables are with free dates and bread that gone once customers are in. Cairo have been noticeably decreasing over the past two years, with many locals saying they can't afford to anymore. With reports from Edwin Fernandez, in Cairo; Ghaidaa Bamuk and AFP

Kuratong crime syndicate back

From page A1

Lim called on Philippine National Police Director General Jesse Robredo to dismantle the syndicate that had been terrorizing towns in four provinces for many years.

"This partisan armed group is called Kuratong Baleleng. It is being headed by former Cpt. Wilfredo Alejandro 'Maling' Bunag," the mayor declared.

He said the syndicate was found in Oriental and engaged on bank robbery, kidnapping for ransom, smuggling and drug trafficking.

He added that it had been "operating with impunity" in Oriental because it enjoyed "political protection" for many years from the former city mayor Aldong Panlilang, a son of his founder Antonio Panlilang.

Governor and Lim have not made the Liberal Party in the May 13 elections.

A former governor of Misamis Occidental, Panlilang was the congressional seat against Aldong Panlilang, who ran under Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

Still protected

Ocampos said the political protection enjoyed by Kuratong Baleleng thugs had been extended because Panlilang's daughter, Nova Echavez, was installed mayor of Oroquia after the violent elections.

"Soldiers victimizing banks in Metro Manila do their 'rest and recreation' activities in Oroquia after every hit, confidence that the arm of the law cannot reach them because of the political protection," Ocampos said, adding:

"The local police are impotent to enforce the law because they are outnumbered and outgunned. Officers are also thrown in their lives and families. Worse, some of them have succumbed to bribery."

Lim, who has filed an electoral protest against Echavez in the Commission on Elections, said Kuratong Baleleng thugs had committed murders, harassment, extortion, intimidation and election cheating activities to thwart the "the unique" political rivals.

She said the thugs had gotten away because the police by arrest the crimes that were mostly unresolved.

"It has become apparent that the local police force may have been aiding and abetting the Kuratong and the Kuratong Baleleng," as mentioned Lim said.

Affidavit, witnesses

Lim presented a bundle of sworn statements from victims and witnesses which, she said, comprised only six eighths of the documented cases against Kuratong Baleleng.

Three witnesses, who are reportedly in hiding for fear of reprisal from the syndicate, were also questioned.

Two were identified as members of the local media, and the third as a former member of the syndicate who left it in order to look Lim, and relocated to Manila after being killed by his former colleagues.

The third witness said he was a former member of the communist New People's Army (NPA) and joined Kuratong Baleleng in 2008. He said the syndicate received P1 million [illegible] operations.

He reiterated that there were some 300 Kuratong Baleleng armed members operating in Misamis Oriental.

He claimed that he worked mainly as a pickpocket, and that much of the loot was paid monthly by the "boxing" depending on the loot.

The first media member said his life was threatened because he identified the authorities who protected the Kuratong Baleleng.

He said he stopped working as his tasks: purposes on May 9 to go into hiding.

The other media members, a cameraman, said he caught on tape vote buying by armed men right outside an election precinct on Election Day.

He said he was handed first set and his camera taken from him. He added that he sought help from a police officer but that the latter merely looked at him and let him smoke on [illegible].

Military creation

Kuratong Baleleng started as a vigilante group during the martial law years for the military's counterinsurgency operations against the NPA.

Its name came from a rebel detection system, a device consisting of a bamboo body known as "kuratong" and a bamboo stick called "baleleng."

"[It] was a creation of the military, but evolved [a monster] out of it. Now it's become huge," Ocampos said.

Breakaway groups emerged over the years. Membership also grew and through the years, the syndicate's activities expanded to other provinces, including Misamis Occidental.

On May 18, 1995, 11 suspected members of Kuratong Baleleng were killed in Quezon City in a purported reboot by agents of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission's then headed by now Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

The multiple murder case filed against the police officers did not progress despite an initial finding of probable cause.

On March 31, 1999, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court dismissed the murder charges after then PNP Ramon Rebadulla Rebadulla and other witnesses recanted their testimonies.

An order to reopen the case was issued by the Department of Justice in April 2001, but the Supreme Court ruled the dismissal by the Court of Appeals in August 2003.

The Inquirer Emerald filed a petition in the Supreme Court, and the latter ordered the reopening of the case in April 2005.

The case went back to the Quezon City RTC, which again dismissed the case in November 2005.

Ocampos lamented that Kuratong Baleleng had been operating for so many years.

"It is sad to note so many past as the immediate past governor of Misamis Occidental that one of them were not enough... And there was no serious effort to this the past administration," she said.

Ocampos, however, said that the Philippine Marines [illegible] Jan. 23, 2009, restored," Ocampos said.

"I trust the administration [now], he said, he added that placing Oriental under a state of emergency was not needed.

Nevertheless, he said, the ranks of the police should be cleansed of corrupt elements.

Big drugs player

"If they can [stop] Kuratong Baleleng is in illegal drug trade, they can solve a bunch of the overall problem of supply of shabu throughout the country because the Kuratong Baleleng is a major player in drug trafficking," Ocampos said.

He said military troops were also suspected of being in cahoots with the syndicate: "During the elections, there was a visible presence of some elements of the Army in the security operations of Rizza Panlilang."

The PNP and the Armed Forces have included Misamis Occidental among the three target areas for the renewed campaign in the months prior to the [illegible] elections.

After the news conference, PNP Director Isaias Pinos, head of the Directorate for Integrated Police Operations in Eastern Mindanao, told reporters that the joint security coordinating center specifically against the Kuratong Baleleng was activated in the area recently.

Mike and Senior Supt. Cesar Rodriguez, PNP deputy regional director of Northern Luzon, would head the task force that would go after private armies in Misamis Occidental.

He noted that Cpt. Ocampos' commander in Lt. Col. Raymundo Acosta of the Army's 58th Infantry Battalion.

"Hopefully in the next few days we can come up with a larger force so we can not to disarm it," Pinos said. ... With a report from Inquirer Researcher

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Luisita now a militarized zone, say farmers against land deal

From page A1

ney disbursement. The soldiers there said that outsiders are not allowed to enter," Pabalan said.

He said their canvass members, their lawyers and Manila Archbishop Rodolfo R. Pabillo had been locked out in getting in touch with Mr. Aquino to relay the request for access to the estate.

He said that in July, even before the removal issue, they had the farmers' groups had lined to entry the HLI compound because they wanted to talk with the workers there in preparation for the Aug. 16 oral arguments on the case in the Supreme Court over the validity of the SDO.

This is to help the farm workers understand their rights, what they give up, in agreeing to the compensation deal," Pabalan said in a phone interview.

He added that the groups also want the Department of Agrarian Reform to supervise the discussions with Mr. Aquino's cousin, Fernando Cojuangco, talks it running in HLI.

Pabalan said that Bishop Pabillo had been locked with

PCGG PROBLEM

Stolen wealth getting harder to recover

By Tarra Quismundo

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS to recover billions of dollars allegedly stolen by the late Ferdinand Marcos would be more difficult as the late dictator's family is back in power, the chief of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) said on Tuesday.

Confident that the Aquino administration would support its recovery efforts, PCGG chair Ricardo Abcede vowed to push for the auction of former First Lady Imelda Marcos' jewelry and to work out a "structured settlement" with the Marcos heirs so the government could recover some P140 billion in ill-gotten wealth.

Abcede said the Marcoses—Imelda, now an Ilocos Norte representative, and Bongbong, an elected senator, and daughter Imee, an Ilocos Norte governor—would "naturally" wield more influence on the presidential recovery process.

"Of course [it will be more difficult]. It depends on the merits of their intentions and the purity of their hearts. And if they really want to help the country and the people," he told the business.

He said he had congratulated the Marcoses in a published message after they won presidential seniors in the May elections.

"I said I hope with their new victories, there would be a final settlement of these cases," Abcede said.

Consider a compromise

Asked what the process would be like under the new administration, he said President Aquino would most likely back any effort to recover Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

"Because [he knows] this is an important recovery program, I think he will pursue it," Abcede said.

"What I like about Noynoy [President Aquino] is that he has a good heart and has good intentions for our people. Based on his recent actuations and pronouncements, I think he really cares for the country, our welfare, especially for poverty alleviation and economic development," he added.

Abcede, an appointee of former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, is serving as a hold-over capacity in his post, awaiting word from the Palace on whether he will be replaced or re-appointed. Abcede's present still hangs in his office.

Since June 2005, he has pushed for the auction of Imelda Marcos' jewelry and has been trying to "open the door" for a compromise agreement with the Marcos family to retrieve some P140 billion in Marcos assets tied up in Swiss banks.

Sotheby's, Christie's

Just before the new administration took office, Abcede invited gemologists from renowned auction houses Sotheby's and Christie's in June to appraise Imelda Marcos' jewelry but was ordered to back down.

Earlier this year, he also made headlines for allegedly lying in bed for 18 hours as he met with the Marcoses, one of whom is the family's dentist.

Clarifying the matter, Abcede yesterday said he was merely exploring the possibility of a compromise.

He reiterated his position. "Even the Supreme Court encourages settlements in order to [ambroider] the courts of cases. We have exclusive proceedings... My point is, if the government is negotiating with the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] and the NPA [New People's Army], why not with the Marcoses and their alleged cronies? Why can't we negotiate settling, negotiating, settling with the Marcoses and their cronies?"

Open to suggestions

Abcede has long been criticized for seeking settlements—slammed as a contravention of the PCGG's purpose of seeking justice for victims of martial law.

Still, the 63-year old lawyer insists the process has gone on way too long.

"As a lawyer, we want to finish, to have closure and reconciliation," he said, pulling on his fourth cigarette in the hour-long interview.

Follow Noynoy example, Palace tells gov't execs

By Norman Bordadora

IF PRESIDENT Aquino eschews having his name and image splashed on government infrastructure projects, can the people expect lesser officials to do the same?

Malacañang will not compel local officials and members of Congress to follow Mr. Aquino's example, but it is hoping that they would, according to Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"Like the sanggunang, he never told anyone that he would remove his own cities," Lacierda said.

And yet other officials followed after the President set the example, he said.

But it would be up to governors, mayors, senators, House members, councilors, barangay chairs and council members to stop the practice of putting their names and faces on roads, bridges, school buildings, waiting sheds and basketball courts and civic projects paid for by taxpayers, he said.

According to Lacierda, Mr. Aquino is an incorruptible about personal aggrandizement that he has asked that even the huge billboards with his likeness put up by the private sector be taken down. There is one such billboard displayed along Edsa.

"He would like to remove one or two on the private sector to cooperate with us [and] refrain from using his image or his name," Lacierda said.

Lacierda said the administration also plans to ask the Kamanyan ng Wikang Pilipino to remove a billboard with Mr. Aquino's image near Malacañang.

But the President's directive to government agencies and corporations against placing his name and image on government projects does not cover the practice of hanging photographs of him in classrooms.

"That's a tradition," Lacierda said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Outsource it

TAKING A leaf from Jonathan Swift's "modest proposal for preventing the children of poor people in Ireland from being a burden on their parents or country, and for making them beneficial to the publick," and riding the global trend of "taking work where it will be handled effectively and, most important, cheaply, we propose that the seemingly unconfrontable task of identifying and apprehending drug traffickers be outsourced.

EDITORIAL

The idea is not as ridiculous as it may initially sound. Imagine the efficacy of allowing a drug trafficker unrestricted passage through security X-rays and obligatory pat-downs and thence into a plane, lolling the subject into thinking "so far so good" and inveigling down to the sublime comforts of the first-class cabin, then awaiting the certain fall of the axe at the airport of the country of destination (Hong Kong, say, or better yet Singapore). It's a cinch.

Hallway monitor observers will note how the curious case of Doctor Sor Bop, Ronald Singson is perfectly illustrative of this proposal. From accounts, on July 11 Gov. Chavit Singson's son breezed through Philippine immigration and such baseline deemed pesky at best by people of similar circumstance, boarded a plane bound for Hong Kong, where, upon landing at the Chek Lap Kok International Airport, was found in possession of 26.1 grams of cocaine and two tablets of a sedative, arrested, and clapped in jail. His application for bail was quickly thrown out. He is due to appear in court on Aug. 19. Until then he remains behind bars.

Can this conceivably happen in the Philippines? Where money and entitlement, or a perverted sense of it, allow the law to be floated in many creative ways?

The eminent Swift possessed the purported merits of his "modest proposal" on his back in 1729. He argued that in order to cut the number of papists, "with whom we are yearly overrun, being the principal breeders of the nation," to allow "poorer inmates" something al cuisine of their own, to replenish the nation's stock by 50,000 pounds a year, to assure "constant breeders" the annual sum of eight shillings sterling, indeed to serve as a great inducement to marriage, the sale and consumption of babies and young children for food should be seriously considered. He went so far as to enumerate "buying the children alive, and dressing them hot from the knife, as we do roasting pigs." Dare we say that this could also be a solution to the unconnected populations' growth to which the papists among us choose to turn a blind eye?

On the matter of our own proposal to outsource law enforcement as it involves drug trafficking, it will undeniably result in a black mark on Philippine pride. It will prove, after all, a long-held suspicion usually discussed with a snifft and a shrug: that our authorities are powerless to act against highly placed persons in apparent possession of contraband—in this case a lawmaker with, as the intimation of a senatus acuinaccios officer, intent to "test-sell" cocaine to a transnational drug syndicate. (The sure surmised that the cocaine bricks recently discovered in sonnet off Sinaut had found their way to Northern Luzon and Metro Manila—a not unsurprising turn of events in this neck of the woods where, as whistle-blower Rodolfo Lozada Jr. has sworn, official greed blossoms to such proportions as to require a "mitigator.")

But to be sure, our proposal will simplify matters immensely. For one, our reformers will be spared the tremendous pressure of upholding the law in the face of a real danger to life and limb. (Remember that the young senator Philip Pentafio was found shot dead after he resisted the loading of illegal logs and drugs onto his ship.) For another, it will do away with the practical matter of having to locate and feed wet-dirty suspects to the maternal to which they are accustomed. (Think, for just an example, of the high-living Amparanes and their literal army of cohorts.)

And then there is the all-important issue of punishment. It's said that trafficking 10-50 grams of cocaine merits a prison term of five to eight years in Hong Kong. If the Honorable Ronald Singson, lawmaker and scion of an empire in northern Luzon, is found guilty of the crime, he will be sufficiently punished.

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When casinos came to Singapore

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

OK if visit to Singapore in April this year, I learned that this prosperous city-state, known for its ethic of hard work and clean living, had finally opened its doors to casinos. "They're totally inimical for visitors than for the locals," the taxi driver told me, sounding almost defensive. Locals and permanent residents, he said, have to pay a levy of $100 per day (or $$2,000 a year) to enter the gaming rooms. Tourists only have to show their passports.

It had taken more than 20 years for the Singaporean leadership to reconsider its long standing aversion to casinos. Singapore isn't exactly known for liberal and law-relenting debate, but on this question, people were encouraged to speak up. And many did, sensing that the ruling party was finally sure of true attitude about the wisdom of this policy shift. After carefully weighing the reported economic benefits against the social costs, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong faced Parliament on April 18, 2005 to recommend legislation permitting "integrated resorts" with a gaming facility to operate in Singapore.

We have much to learn from the way Singapore tackled the issue of casinos. First of all, the issue was never just about casinos, but about what the country needed to do to become competitive in a fast-changing global environment. The government did not need the casinos to raise money. That much was clear from the start. What the government needed to do was to inject a new vitality into the economy—specifically tourism, and, with it, all the associated businesses on which Singapore depends, ranging from airlines, hotels and restaurants, shopping malls, entertainment centers, banks, transportation, etc.

Casinos as such were not essential to this strategy. The government did not have sound, silver gaming balls that offered nothing but gambling. What drew them to casinos was precisely the concept of the "integrated resort," to which the casino formed but a small, albeit central, component. The ill in a complex that would include a theme park, a cluster of hotels and restaurants, convention amenities, recreation at facilities, shopping malls, museums, theaters and movie houses and so on.

So having had previous experience in this area, the government requested interested parties to submit a concept of what they would build in two designated places: the Marina Bay/Sant and Sentosa. Nineteen different concepts were submitted, and from these, the government chose the most attractive and invited their proponents to submit firm proposals. Again, from the beginning, the government had no plan to operate these facilities. Neither did it want the casino component to define the character of these projects. It acknowledged the superbenefits and objections of religious and civic groups, instead of dismissing them out of hand. When it was time to decide, the prime minister took full responsibility, explaining in the clearest language possible what made the change his own initial position on the matter.

"The government has to balance the economic gains against the social fallout and the intangible impact on values, and make an overall judgment whether to proceed. For the Government, the key question is what will serve our national interest in the long term."

First, he explained what Singapore stood to gain from these integrated resorts—not casinos. Essentially, they would be a magnet for expanded economic activity. They would create jobs and enhance the image of Singapore as an enticing tourist destination and convention hub. The actual share of government revenue from these operations seemed peripheral; it was not even mentioned by Lee in his speech. The cost of his statement to Parliament engaged all the objections and reservations about hosting casinos, as if he was trying to allay his own apprehensions.

"I believe it no doubt that the ills will be a major plus for Singapore. However, our considerations cannot just be economic. We must also address the non-economic issues—tangible economic like an increase in problem gamblers and families hurt, and intangible ones like the impact on Singapore's moral values and social values." He answered all these objections point by point and in great detail, making no attempt to reduce the immense complexity of the decision he had made by rhetorical means.

He said that his Cabinet came close to banning all Singaporeans from gambling in the casinos, but eventually opted to allow entry to locals who were willing to pay a high entrance fee. If excluded, they might just go somewhere else to gamble, he noted. If they can afford to gamble, then they can afford to pay the levy. But the casinos will not be allowed to extend credit to locals. This is to discourage impulsive and compulsive gambling. More important, a system of exclusion will bar them with financial problems, and those with financial assistance. Those who can also will be rather than to halt those family members who have a gambling problem. The basic principle guiding these policies is that gambling is an expense, and not a way to make a living.

Unlike the Philippine government, the Singapore government, which runs a broad range of state corporations, has no interest in operating casinos as revenue-generating enterprises. Yet it accepts their growing importance as segments of global tourism and business. On this basis, it has carved a middle ground that accepts a role for casinos in the city, extracts the maximum to oppose the values of thrift and hard work among its people.

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Remember them too

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know that Monday, August 23, should be declared a non-working holiday. But I do think we ought to mark August 21 with as much passion or fanfare as we can, with or without holiday connotation.

Why is that, I'm sure you're asking? Why is it the supreme duty of the Filipino to remember August 21 as National Heroes' Day as well, I know that's additional cost to employers (they have to pay overtime) and to commercial workers (they lose the day), but that's more than made up for by recovery from national amnesia. The virtue of economics aside where the need for national remembrance begins. The only thing we have more than physical endurance is spiritual amnesiathenes.

I do think however that August 21 shouldn't just be Ninoy Aquino Day. August 21 doesn't just mark Ninoy's assassination. It also marks the Plaza Miranda bombing. It's one of those uncanny coincidences that two of the most despicable events in our postwar history occurred on the exact same day and month, if not year. And it's one of those arbitrary magic realist ironies that the first killed democracy while the second helped resurrect it.

It has been a source of much debate as to over years whether Ferdinand Marcos or Jose Ma. Sison actually ordered the bombing of the Liberal Party outing de ayuno on Aug. 21, 1971. What is not in dispute is that Marcos' lifting of the writ of habeas corpus in its wake became the prelude to the lifting of all pretenses at liberalism with his imposition of martial law a year later. For the next 14 years, the country kept right in the wake of democracy.

Ninoy's return from exile in August 1983 was not even mentioned by Lee in his speech. The rest of his statement to Parliament engaged all the objections and reservations about hosting casinos, as if he was trying to allay his own apprehensions.

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There are 100 million of us now

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

WELL, 30 by precise, 99,999,177, according to one forecast. That makes our country the 12th most populous nation on earth. Ours is the fourth most crowded place on earth after India, Bangladesh and Japan (or a list that excludes such exceptional cases such as Monaco, Singapore and Malta).

It is a staggering figure. President Aquino predicts every woman in his family double the number of his sisters when his mother stopped giving in 1986. Since 2000 when the Reproductive Health Bill was filed in Congress, there are 4 million more Filipinos. And while Congress dithered on the bill, I still would suppose Filipinos—to choose whether to have children or not, and going by surveys that 38 percent to 44 percent of the in the country are unwanted, those born here in many as 1.8 million unwanted births in the past three years.

Worse, it is the poor who mostly have these unwanted babies, as there are also fewer women to receive reproductive information and means. There are a lobbyist running P200 a day (about condoms sold at P80 per pack!). While Congress debated and the Catholic Church threatened fire and brimstone against its supporters, our country produced 1.8 million more Filipinos.

An ignorant argument would be that rich countries like the United States and Japan are bigger than ours, but still prosperous. But both countries were already huge many decades ago, and they have grown through the so-called demographic transition, which prospers the nation in the form of healthy cities, as the average number of living children a woman bears in her lifetime. Thus, the US population growth rate in the past five years is one percent; Japan's is negative -0.2 percent.

In contrast, our annual population growth rate is 2.04 percent in 2010 (of 1.9 percent is the highest among the 12 biggest countries in the world, following Nigeria's 2.3 percent; a country which is practically only among us in the modern era. Just to note the connection between population and economic growth's still not! done, we are behind in this listing by Pakistan, 1.2 percent; Bangladesh, 1.7 percent; and India, 1.5 percent. The Philippines' fertility rate from 2000 to 2010 was 3.4 percent, higher than our neighbors. Thus, with higher fertility rates we almost all post African countries.

It is one of the massive misfortunes of this Philippine state—it failed to provide the means for ill spaces to control their lives by being able to decrease in the most important decision in a couple's life, which is having and raising children.

It is amazing how our intellectual elite grandstand on trivial issues why our country is poor when one unique reason is staring us in the face, a nightmare you see as you drive through any urban poor neighborhood teeming with children: our unbridled population growth.

Why are wages low? Because we have so many workers that the law of supply and demand pushes down wages. Why is productivity low? Productivity is the result of mechanization, but why mechanize if wages are so low? (A reader remarks: Why pay up a Filipino machine at the owner), when you can get low-unemployed donkeys to do the calling.)

Senate opinion writers often gush about a purportedly Philippine "Golden Age" during their time, when everything was all right. But our population in 1960 was just 21 million, a fifth of what it is today. During the government in you remember through the how the traffic in metropolitan Manila? The most-quoted population is now 24 million. In 1960, it was 1.3 million.

It is amazing how a few top-notch economists, particularly those belonging to the Ateneo's vaunted, Opus Dei, can still argue in this day and age that there is no connection between population growth rates and economic well-being. Perhaps even as late as the 1960s, there was still such a debate. But the debate had been resolved, and there is now a universal consensus that uncontrolled population growth is a major factor in the continued poverty of our nation. So, why are among the very few countries in the world whose government is a matter of policy eschew a population program that provide contraceptives to the poor.

Rather, the debate now is over the neo-Malthusian thesis which claims that developed nations, with an increasing or reduced population, are necessary to prevent an environmental Armageddon, as the earth's resources are not enough even for the present global population.

But we're centuries behind that debate. Our main problem today is still children, or rather, the major state policies, with the threat of eternal damnation and even worse, political instability. "Bishop drains Lord dead," this paper's banner headline on Monday screamed. Nowhere in the world except perhaps in the Khomeinist Iranian is a cleric's pronouncement so powerful.

It is the Catholic Church and its organizations that have been blocking the country from undertaking a full-blown population program, on grounds of pure dogma that contraception is evil, age "is definitive evidence of the almighty God built into the human nature." But the fact is that what's the Bible's been is, not in Spain, the land of the conquistadores which pronounced to Catholicism a big part of the world, but only in the Philippines does the Church have such awesome influence over state policy.

The Church was certainly crucial in the peaceful overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986, which nudged us towards the democratic, modern era. But to many ways it has also kept us in a neo-feudal social view that is responsible for much of our nation's poverty.

E-mail: tiglao.rigoberto@gmail.com

Aha moments

YOUNG BLOOD

Grace Torio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

LIFE is more complex in Pamplona. It was the family moved to California when he was 11, after the death of his father. He entered the Iowa State University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. So when did he become thinking like an immigrant?

It is during his graduation that he turned out money-loving, the determination to make it, and make it in a foreign land. So came there simply a no-going back. Failure is not an option for you. Pass challenge school is proven and work with it. To think like an immigrant is to do what it takes (except hitting go of your values) to attain the objective American Dream. For him to be creative and resourceful enough to overcome obstacles lies between you and that dream of a good, happy and successful life.

My next question was not really new, but coming from him, I felt like it was because—not because it came at a time when I was confused about what I was doing in the United States. It came at a time when I needed to feel like my life had a direction. I needed to understand why I was in that kind of situation. He said, "Follow your the moments."

Simple? But what is the "the moment"? For Emberson, his defining aha moment was when he realized that building relationships was what he wanted to do. He did not belong to the world of engineering (which he studied for) but to the world of advocacy. He realized that he was the best at helping an inner voice that was telling him, "This is what makes me happy. This is what I want to do with my life." In other words, this is where God wants me to be. The glory be.

I think I also had an aha moment once. I was taking a jeepney on my way home to Ermita from the University of Santo Tomas, when I saw beside me a mother and her child. The girl had a peculiar bumps on her head. One was on the back of her head, the other was her nose. Being my usual curious self, I asked the mother how old her daughter was. Although I can't remember now the girl's age, I can recall that the mother had a hard time answering it. I didn't understand.

The girl was a little shy maybe a little anxious that a stranger was asking about her, but she smiled at me once in a while. Looking at her, I realized this was why I wanted to be a doctor. I told myself that someday I would be able to remove the bumps on her head, that someday, I would make her feel better.

I was still lost in my thoughts when the mother asked the driver to stop. Then she told her child, "Ito ibaba na kayo." The only sending child waved goodbye to me and then got off the jeep.

At that moment, I felt that I had connected with three complete. For me, that very encounter had a profound meaning.

Listening to Emberson, I realized that I still wanted to become a doctor. My aunt must have told my daughter because she turned to me and said, " Ninya doon. Kuya, follow your heart."

I smiled and responded, "I hope so. Tito."

Today, I read a great quote from a student featured in Business Inquirer: "The profession of medicine is not a job opportunity for me, it's a calling."

I am a registered nurse right now. But I can honestly say that I never imagined myself in a job more boring in the sadness and misery of others. I don't like the hospital. I can't relax when people are bed I will be sick for some time, earning slice of dollars. But if I wanted to become rich, I would have gone to business, right?

I still pray don't judge nurses that way. Burning midnight...and so I...about money for me. I arrived at the decision to take up the course after several hard knock-ending. At that time, I felt I had enough parental counsels to go into nursing. Until now, thoughts of what might have been still haunt me. But when I look at the faces of the people I love and care about, and recall the sacrifices they made for me, I know that I have done something worthwhile.

Was I flying high on confidence, I know God has a good plan for me. I might have followed my mind back there, but my heart was one in it, and it is still here.

Grace Torio, 27, graduated in Bachelor's degree in biology before taking up nursing. She now works as a critical duty nurse.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Sacrifice

The problem is, we no joke to enter government service. Your salary will go down, while criticism will multiply. It's difficult to convince good people to fill up these positions.

—President Aquino

Marginalized rich?

"The implication of the ruling is that now, individual business and an indirect elected official can circumvent the party-list system. This is an abomination that totally contradicts the letter and spirit of the party-list system and deliberate it as a safety platform for the already rich and powerful to get elected."

—Representative Rep. Teodoro Casiño, on the Comelec ruling that lobby groups could sit in Congress as party-list representatives

Sr. Menggay of the Aetas

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Cleofe J. Dayo

"HAF SOOH, again fly to the house of Apo Baratpart," a sobbing Aeta leader wearing only a G-string said at the funeral Mass for Sr. Corinne "Menggay" Rebollo last week, referring to the Aeta word of the common chapel of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) in Carmona, Cavite. Present were Sr. Menggay's fellow FMM nuns, her immediate family friends and representatives of the Aeta community who came all the way from Zambales.

Many of the Aetas who attended the late FMM convent in Tagaytay City Sr. Menggay was tied to over directly in the ground in the FMMs' beautiful burial place on the ridge which has a breathtaking view of Taal lake and volcano. The sun broke through the dark clouds as we laid to Menggay's goodbye, sang and prayed in our own vocal parts. Tree pillars against sand was suddenly bright and green and the lake beyond seemed sunny blue.

And I thought of another volcano, Mount Pinatubo in Zambales, at the foot of which Sr. Menggay had her fellow FMMs spent years living and working among the Aetas. Home from work, I looked through my photo albums and videos, and followed them after the 1991 world-class volcanic eruption that set down all in historic exodus. But I am getting ahead of the story.

Born 71 years ago in Mission Occidental, Sr. Menggay passed away on Aug. 2 after a year-long battle with a lung ailment. She was ready to go, as the story went. She felt before she died, she named her arms and embraced several times, "Now, Lord!" And then consoled, "Tomorrow na lang." Often we laughed over that, "Tomorrow did come" and she now takes into the bosom of her God whom she loved and served with her Namely days.

I came to know Sr. Menggay during the months' late years. A bunch of us graduates across cultivation and lay) frequented the FMM convent in Pandacan where she was based and later becoming mentor. How I can say that the sister took her for granted, because I was always there.

While fixing my files of photos and negatives last weekend, I found photos of Sr. Menggay among Aeta and other colored people whom I took those her meeting beside a naked corpse of an activist who was killed at a rally in Iloilo, 1985. We were present at the ceremony.

In Menggay's face happened to the militants in that time recalled on the dead of night to encompass for the dead. In the presence of the victim's family, Sr. Menggay took charge. I was with her in dressing the coffin. In the afternoon, the victim's sister of late arrived from the province. After wrapping a shroud of St. Menggay comforting the grieving relatives, I consoled, slumped on the sidewalk and sobbed.

For that time, Sr. Menggay (and others) began working among the Aetas. I visited the new FMM community in Sitio Yamot in Pandanan, Botolan, Zambales, in 1991. There was no water source in the area. Water had to be brought from the town and everyone took a bath only every three days. I observed the vegetables and fruits in the garden were stunted. The vegetables and fruits in the garden were stunted. The Aetas and water about it as consequence.

I did go back after a couple of years (to see my best friend). Someone and some about the EDSA revolution in the area with no lights to guide. The entire the community had water and was shown with electricity. The water source was developed but become bigger and the Aetas' homes stood mostly in a row. That was the last time I would see the place. In June 1991, Sumot was buried in volcanic ash and the village was no more. But Lilio Eadoo or Mayan as nga Kamalong Aeta ng Kamalong), which St. Menggay helped organize, would become Lakas—would become dear to Menggay's legacy.

Sr. Menggay and the FMMs journeyed with the Aeta-Lakas community as they searched for the "promised land." I wrote a feature on their search ("Homesickness, abused village still not again," Aug. 5-7, 1991) for the Sunday Inquirer Magazine.

The book "Inspirasyon and Buhay ng Mga Pilipinong mula sa Aetas of Zambales" is about the latest journey to history, dating and after the volcanic eruption. In Menggay shot the photos. In Emma Fondevilla wrote the text, Lorna E. Tiad copy-edited. Ally Aquino 1995, columns since). "Stated is in the West," a word of Aeta origin. To identify new representation, Sr. Menggay said the Aetas brought her such kinds of Pinatubo pumice stones for my garden and a sage of the book with dozens of hero signatures.

Let me say, and Sr. Menggay would attest to this, that it was the Aetas, along with Sr. Emma in a series of visits over more than a month, among the Aetas, and care the organize of the FMM Philippine Province) that first showed the incredulous scientific community about the modeling of Mt. Pinatubo which had been dormant for 600 years. It was first in the became.

Sr. Menggay transcended ideologies, religious affiliations and boundaries. After Lakas had become deeply rooted among the Aetas, Sr. Menggay and the FMMs moved on. She traveled to the places and readily shared her experiences with the indigenous peoples of the Asia-Pacific region, sometimes taking long breaks, along. She was also invited to join religious gatherings.

Sr. Menggay's beautiful ideologies, religious affiliations and boundaries. After Lakas had become deeply rooted among the Aetas, Sr. Menggay and the FMMs moved on. She traveled to the places and readily shared her experiences with the indigenous peoples of the Asia-Pacific region, sometimes taking long breaks

Locals can match Ang's Pagcor bid

LETTERS

I READ the news report about Ramon Ang and company's desire to buy Pagcor. While such a move might give our government a much-needed respite from its financial woes, the resulting appreciation of the peso vs. PHP for every dollar would certainly bring financial ruin and misery to countless overseas Filipino workers whether or long-have been helping to keep our economy afloat while gravely traumatized by dodging every legal government fees. And now these treasonists are going to reap the rewards, while the poor and struggling Filipinos, who have left their loved ones to give their families a decent life, will, at most, end up at the losing end.

I wish that Senator Pimentel, Aquino's loser boss for the ordinary Filipino and that he will ensure that any such move will be ground-breakingly unwarranted advancing their welfare and interest. I think that if Pres. will pursue a course which is not going to hurt our long-suffering OFWs.

I am confident there are many local investors who can more than afford the same offer and can operate Pagcor better than the once Mr. Ang is planning to rig doing.

—EULOGIO L. BENITE,
Block 8, Lot 73, Lachmeria Oaks Subdivision, Cagayan de Oro City

Consumers to invite Meralco's spokesperson to power forum

THE REPRESENTATIVE of one Manufacturer, head of Meralco's executive committee (Under and Underwriting Manager of Meralco,") Meralco, CCRS, CEO.

We are not at all surprised why Meralco cannot accept that consumers are weary of its operations. The only reason Meralco's management is not utterly process over its unreasonably high rates, which were advised, is through one increase allowed under the Performance-Based Rate-setting (PBR) methodology.

The first increase was an average of 00.357 per kilowatt hour which was implemented last May 2009. This was followed by a 00.350 kWh increase last this 2010.

These two annual increases have given Meralco an additional revenue of P1.1 billion per month from its monthly average sales of 2.2 billion kilowatt-hours. Their pending application with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) for another rate increase is reported to be implemented in May 2011.

Understandably only the Meralco management and its employees who receive very generous perks (P2.7 billion pension fund) are not wary of Meralco's operations. In fact, with the imposed rates, by 50 percent, in its net income in the first half of this year despite the power outages lately, Meralco has all the reasons to rejoice from its successive profits.

But what surprises us is how Zaldarriaga ran rally of ERC's July 14 and 15 hearings on Meralco's application for rate increases in the 2011-2015 period. The first to be was not present in these hearings. Those two hearings were attended by Meralco personnel who almost filled the entire ERC hearing room.

I was there together with some NGOs and individual consumers who were attending an ERC hearing for the first time. Zaldarriaga could have appointed lawyer the presentations made by his fellow Meralco officers had by been there. He would have estimated for himself the inability of their rates (projected increases) no matter whether Meralco's application under the ERC, part-time ERC Commissioner Raul Yap, Jose Cheri Amarille Dacuno) had no trouble some to his reserve in answering the questions raised by Peter Gregan of the Sectional Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform (SECCR) and Atty. Jose Ramon Aguirre, which questions consumers complaints about Meralco, and his merely rely on what is fed to him by the his firm's PR people. We hope he will accept our invitation.

—JESUS LEO VELEZO,
Federation of Village Associations,
velezolino@yahoo.com

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'Growling tigers' during Marcos time defanged

WE WOULD like to cite Gonzalo de Quiroz for his highly eloquent critique against one of the most widely known critics of the Truth Commission of 2010, namely, Sen. Joker Arroyo and his fellow Liberal Party (LP) Congressmen (Inquirer, 8/2/10). There we gentlemen were called to attack us. They used to the "growling tigers" that challenged the despotic regime of dictator Ferdinand Marcos. There were among the loud voices in the wilderness which did not cease to call the attention of the entire country to story were up against an ogre sought light and cleaning in the dark jungles of the martial law regime.

The fall of the Marcos dictatorship made many think that such a dark epoch in the annals history of our country will not happen again.

The rise of the demons (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel) rudely proved us all wrong. The poor victims of the corrupted dictatorship had regretfully treated the mistakes committed by the first and made sure it will not suffer the same fate by imposing the unfleshed pro-impunity response (CPR), which effectively denied the people the freedom of assembly (unless they could get their government's nod which, despite being declared unconstitutional by the Pampanga Supreme Court, still hang like a sword of Damocles over the people's heads.

The Arroyo wild-and-lawless/ pro-country damned predecessors, as we recently (in our view), in the series of humongous corruption scandals that characterized the Arroyo regime (e.g., Jose Pidal account, the 2004 election fraud, the NBN-ZTE deal). The couple found themselves defenders in these two criminal/ martial law appointees.

And seriously enough, as the Arroyo regime acquired many of the despotic aims of the Marcos rule, the once "growling tigers" suddenly became mum and seemed to have lost their claws and fangs. Then we were subjected of a certain quite similar to the one they zealously fought against. We believe they have been served "ground meat" to keep them strongly to their lairs and for which they did not need "claws and fangs to maim the flesh."

The Arroyo regime was characterized by lies, which the tigers perfected to keep the nation in the dark about their dark activities. The nation and the nongovernment became guardians of the lies and enjoyers of light as their masters committed their evil deeds with impunity under cover of the cages.

The civil society rose up in arms against the liars and their lies, giving life to the dictum of French satirist Francois Rabelais which says, "Speak the truth and shame the devil."

But the evil could not be shamed.

The new former tigers remained adamant, content perhaps with keeping themselves comfortable under the mask of "assistant tiger," which seemed to have tapped them of the courage to look at the "bright and beautiful of truth," to remove a John Milton phrase.

—RAMON RAFOLA,
rafolar@gmail.com

Studies show Laguna Lake can supply potable water

MORE THAN 20 years ago, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) came up with feasibility studies on how to recover from Laguna de Bay to supply potable water for the residents of Metro Manila and nearby towns. The studies cost the Canadian government millions of dollars.

I am not a water specialist, but after listening through those studies, I learned that the project requires some reclamation and information around Laguna Lake, the construction of highways within its perimeters, the building of parks, the dismantling of fish pens, the relocation of factories polluting the lake, among others.

Laguna Lake was created by God for our fish and water needs and not for the needs of some unscrupulous military officials, politicians and businessmen. Save sinking Calauan, sinking factories, sinking penthouses in Laguna Lake.

—JESSE C. VALENCIA, Bldg 23, Room 012, Sagana 1 Quezon Condominium, Sagalog City

SC asked to approve Luisita compromise deal

By Philip C. Tubeza

INQUIRER Luisita Inc. (HLI) and its unions yesterday petitioned the Supreme Court to approve a purported compromise agreement approved in a referendum last week rejecting the breakup of the sugar plantation owned by the family of President Aquino.

The two-page joint motion urged the court to consider the agreement when it rules on its appeal for the fallback to order the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council decision in 2005 that said a stock distribution option (SDO) did not improve the lives of HLI farmers and ordered the parceling of the hacienda lands to the tillers.

The court has scheduled oral arguments Aug. 18 on the issue, which originally covered more than 6,000 hectares in Tarlac City. Cooperatives and Lic Farmowners in Tarlac.

"The parties sincerely believe that this compromise agreement will further improve the quality of lives of the [unit members in Hacienda Luisita]," the motion said, referring to what it said was the approval by 70 percent of its members of the SDO arrangement last week.

Accordingly, it is respectfully prayed that the compromise agreement be approved and judgment rendered in accordance therewith," it added.

Copies of the agreement in both English and Filipino were attached to the motion, which was also signed by farmers leaders Eddie Cruz Pingol and Noel Wilfred on behalf of the United Luisita Workers Union (ULWU) and the Alyansa ng Manggagawang Bukid ng Hacienda Luisita (Amblel), respectively.

Atty. Jules Tantiqo and Windsor Andres who signed the court motion for the Supervisory Group of Hacienda Luisita Inc., said his regulatory in the deal.

Other teams are considering the purported settlement under which 1,400 hectares, or a third of the estate, will be up for distribution in accordance with the stock entitlement under the cooperative law. Members of those unions staged a strike in 2004 that turned violent and left at least seven people dead. (See story on Page A1.)

The motion said that consultations and negotiations began three years ago before the settlement was signed on Friday at the hacienda. [illegible] report from Aurora Antonio

More investors interested in acquiring Pagcor

From page B1

"I don't know if [Ang's] offer will stand due to the denial," Santiago said.

Right price

In an "informal" conversation with a supposed representative of the Hong Kong group, Santiago said the prospective investor "considered the $10-billion offer interesting."

"If the price is right, then there might be some interest. The question is, what is the right price?" Santiago quoted the group's emissary as saying.

He declined to name the group, but said the prospective investor was into real estate and hotel operations across the Asia-Pacific region and engaged in casino operations in the country.

Ang offer too small

Santiago said the $10-billion price tag that Ang had floated for Pagcor was too small, considering the 25 years left to its congressional franchise to run the monopoly gambling business in the country.

"The $10-billion (about P468 billion) proposal is a good start, but I think it's too low. If the time is right, we could 'make out' different valuation methods," he said.

With an annual gross revenue of about P60 billion, Pagcor can easily raise P468 billion values in franchise ends in 2033, a difference of some P240 billion from Ang's proposal, making the current dollar-peso exchange rate of P45:1, Santiago said.

"[Ang] said he could raise Pagcor's annual revenues to at least P50 billion. If he could do it, then why can't we do it?" the Pagcor spokesperson said.

Cue from Mr. Aquino

Since Pagcor is directly under the Office of the President, the gaming Czar will just "take the cue" from Mr. Aquino, according to Santiago.

"If the President is on tour, in policymaking, Pagcor, then we will steer the process. If he thinks he needs international funding and wants to sell Pagcor, then we will take the cue from him," Santiago said.

"If he thinks it's not urgent and that there's a process close he wants us to continue, then we will just work to encounter the reminiscences [to the national government] and revenues of Pagcor," he added.

Valuation managers

To ensure transparency in the sale of Pagcor, Santiago said professional valuation managers would be hired to ascertain the market value of the state-run gambling corporation.

All government agencies related to Pagcor's privatization must be anticipated reasonable, said Pagcor Chairman Kingson.

"But as we said, Pagcor's privatization is not on our priority list right now," Kingson said.

Regulatory functions

Ms. Aquino is open to privatizing only the proprietary functions of Pagcor as he is keen on keeping its regulatory functions, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said yesterday.

The President has instructed Kingson to undertake a study to determine the real value of Pagcor before undertaking recommendations that it be privatized, Abad said.

"Ultimately that is the direction that the government is headed intended as the regulatory or the business function of Pagcor is concerned," said Abad, who was in Bacolod City to speak at a convention of the Philippine Association of Government Budget Administrators.

Abad said the government should not compete with the private sector in areas where the latter was good at. "Government will just simply improve on its regulatory functions," he said.

Concession fees

The Budget secretary said revenues could still accrue to the government even if Pagcor was privatized.

"If the decision to privatize is by way of concession, then the concessionaires will have to pay concession fees that will enable government to get annual returns from Pagcor on top of monies earned from the sale of the concession," Abad said.

Wanted: Better term for Noy 'private time'

From page A1

[illegible] to conduct most of his Cabinet meetings behind closed doors and seldom invites the media to his activities outside Malacañang.

Answering this yesterday, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda did not explain why and sounded that "a better term" might be needed to describe Mr. Aquino's schedule.

"And to clarify, private time means the President has a lot of confidential meetings with Cabinet secretaries and other officials," he told reporters.

Lacierda said Mr. Aquino himself had already thought of using another phrase to describe these closed-door meetings "because people think private time means he is not doing anything."

"But he has plenty of meetings everyday," he stressed.

Still accessible

In principle, even Lacierda is reserved how disclosing to the press what transpire in such meetings.

But this much he could say: "Right now, we are still thinking on a better term to use instead of private time."

Lacierda reiterated that the President remained accessible to the media even if reporters didn't get formally invited to ward off his aversion or restrain the Palace.

He made the announcement after Mr. Aquino conducted an inspection of a portion of the Pasig River on Tuesday—without informing the press.

'Basically shy'

The Palace said the President was then escorted by MRT-LRTA Foundation managing director Gina Lopez, who had launched a series of cleanup projects for the waterway.

"It was a decision he just made overnight while the press [was] calmly said. "Like what he said [before], he's basically shy. He does not need to attract attention to himself."

"There will be some events to be covered by the media. Then there [would be] some events that would depend on his discretion whether he would allow coverage," Lacierda said in defense of his boss.

"You may find [an undisclosed event] newsworthy, but the President just does not want it said that he was trying to attract attention," the Palace spokesman also added.

Across the NATION

Envoys strike deal with gov; cops to free 80 Chinese miners

IBA, ZAMBALES—Chinese embassy officials have checked on the condition of 80 Chinese workers who were held by the police after they were found to be working without permit in a mine site in Masinloc town.

While the workers could not produce work permits, police signed a July 30 memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Chinese consulate that guaranteed the safety and freedom of the workers at Coto Mines in Barangay Bilal in Masinloc, said Senior Supt. Rafael Santos, Zambales police director.

Policemen and members of the Army's 249th Infantry Battalion provided security for members of the provincial mining regulatory board on July 22, when it raided the Coto Mines to validate reports of large-scale theft of chromite there.

Santiago said police detained the 80 Chinese because they "could not immediately establish the legality of their presence in (workers)."

"Only days after that, a Chinese attaché coordinated with us, and conducted an onsite inspection of the mining site and spoke with the Chinese workers for nearly three hours. Finally, a few days ago, their consul general came to visit me and (Zambales Gov. Hermogenes) Ebdane Jr.," Santiago said.

Ebdane confirmed that he met with Li Qindong, counselor and consul general of the Chinese embassy on Aug. 3 to reach a "diplomatic solution."

Santiago said the MOU with embassy official Xu Chun Mao stated that the Chinese workers would "not be confined nor restricted from movement around the mining compound."

"A few days ago, (Chinese embassy officials) checked them and talked to us. We're signed a memorandum of understanding about their status. We're just verifying the authenticity of their working papers, and afterwards they will be free to go," Santiago said.

While there was information of a substantial number of Chinese workers in the mine site, they were never considered as the major target or subject of the joint operations. Their discovery was simply incidental," he said.

On July 23, the day after the raid, Santiago said the "employer of the Chinese miners were able to present via e-mail at least 18 working permits they supposedly obtained from the Bureau of Immigration."

He said police have been wondering why "they applied [for permits] only a few hours after the raid, and the next day they were able to obtain the permits from the (bi)."

"We're still verifying the authenticity of the documents," he said.

Ebdane said: "It is unfortunate that the Chinese mining company, who employed the workers, dealt with unscrupulous personalities responsible for the irregularities (here)."

"The raid was quite done in order to remove those irregularities. These people are now the subject of an investigation," he said.

He added: "I asked the Chinese consul general to relay (our) words to the (Chinese) ambassador, (Ma's) Manay."

He also organized a gathering of Chinese-Filipino businessmen led by tycoon James C. Ty, president emeritus of the Filipino-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Inc., as a sign of good faith that Chinese investments here are welcome.

Antonio Lim, chair of Compañia Minera Tabajon Inc. (CMTI), which operates the Coto mines, said she was using the police for the raid, claiming that the mining boat brought along 120 true volunteers and an armored personnel carrier "without the necessary permit or permits."

Lim claimed the raiding team inadvertently escaped sanctions of a rival mining firm that had been trying to embrace a cease-and-desist order against CMTI. Rodore Alcantara, Inquirer Central Luzon

THE 80 CHINESE MINERS after they were held by police at a raid on a chromite mining site in Masinloc, Zambales. A deal between the Chinese embassy and top Zambales officials, led by Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane, led to their release and continued work at the mine site. NELSON MOLINA

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China ship's Davao visit shrouded in secrecy

DAVAO CITY—Secrecy shrouded the rare visit of the Chinese satellite tracking ship Min Yuan Wang 5 reportedly docked at the Sasa Wharf here reportedly to "replenish supplies."

The Chinese vessel, with an array of satellite dishes and high-tech scanners, has been quietly berthing at Sasa wharf since Aug. 6 when it arrived without attracting much attention.

But Min Yuan Wang 5, known as one of the satellite tracking vessels of the People's Republic of China, has been described by Global Security—a website known for its military and security information—as a "specialship built for environmental guided missile, submarine to shore missile and antisatellite technology."

The website also said Yuan Wang 5, which is on station off Namibia, had sent signals to fire the arms rockets during the 2009 launch of Shenzhou I, China's first unmanned spacecraft.

Officials at the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said the 109 Yuan Wang 5 has "cleared to dock at Sasa Wharf" and left Wharf, docking side in 330 crewmen since Aug. 6.

The ship boss China is here on a 10-day goodwill visit and to "replenish supplies," said Subic Bangalisan, chief of the BOC pier supervision division.

But reporters trying to interview the crew people aboard the ship found hostility when they were ushered out of the ship by crew arms talkless answering any of their questions.

A seaman who can speak English said they have already received clearance from the Philippine government. He was more interested in how to answer any question as to why the ship was here.

He also said the ship was ready to leave on the "re-supplying."

According to Global Security, Yuan Wang (which means "long view") series was first conceptualized by the late Communist leader Chou En Lai as an encouraging survey fleet to carry out "tremendous aerospace observation and control technology."

Bangalisan said the Chinese ship arrived here on Aug. 6 and is expected to leave Aug. 13. Inquirers have been trying to interview people on board the ship but the ship captain and a crewman refused to explain why they were here.

"They were merely on a goodwill visit here," said Bangalisan. Steve Rio Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao

Puffer fish kills 2, sends 6 to hospitals

By Jeanne Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Puffer fish has claimed two more lives last Sunday.

Two persons died in Samsales, some 134 kilometers from this city, while six have been brought to hospitals after eating the poisonous fish.

The dead were identified as Rolando Tano, a fisherman, and Alejandro Cuerpo, a village watchman, both residents of Barangay Cabuyao-gan.

Tano's children, wife and neighbors were brought to the hospital after partaking of the deadly meal.

A neighbor, Berdey Base, said Tano brought home a 3-kg puffer fish, had it cooked in coconut milk and served for dinner. According to Berdey, fishermen in the village were used to eating puffer fish, which has toxins that can initially deaden the tongue or lips and cause paralysis before death.

It was different this time, however. Berdey said it should be cooked with vegetables to absorb the toxins.

DEADLY DELICACY Some people never learn as they keep catching and eating puffer fish, shown here being proudly displayed by two men who had caught it. Cebu Daily News

Tano died on the spot. Cuerpo was brought to the hospital but died on the way.

Berdey said she didn't touch the fish and just ate the vegetables that were added to the deadly dish.

'Dear SC' letters stir suspicions on cityhood

MAYORS and officials of the League of Cities (from left)—Alcantara, Dasmariñas and Bacoor mayors Lani Mercado, Aguinaldo and Camacho, Roberto Abad and Manny Mamaril Jr., who only participated in the December 2009 deliberation, just when the SC ceremonies began.

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Questions in hand, resigned by what could be the country's worst oil spill four years ago, is back on its feet, according to its governor.

Income arrivals in 2009 was up by 34 percent, or by more than 90,000, compared to 2008, according to data from the provincial tourism office.

Tourist arrivals last year leaped to 232,938 compared to 158,441 in 2008. This included 7,370 foreign tourists and 225,568 local guests.

The number of tourists reached only 172,995 in 2007 and 186,623 in 2006 after the oil spill struck.

"We have recovered," said Guimaras Gov. Felipe Nava in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

On Aug. 11, 2006, at least 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel spilled into seas off Guimaras after MT Solar 1, a cargo vessel chartered by oil firm Petron, sank as it was passing the oil island's southern shorelines in the middle of a storm.

Nava said life has returned to normal in Guimaras with fishermen going back to fishing.

The oil spill contaminated at least 27 villages in the towns of Nueva Valencia, Sibunag, San Lorenzo, Jordan and Buenavista in Guimaras and in the towns of Sara, Concepcion and Oton in Iloilo. It also reached the coastal villages of Iloilo City.

At least 38,552 persons, mostly fishermen, lost their livelihood.

The oil spill also devastated the island's rich marine resources, destroying 109 km of coastline, 15.6 sq km of coral reefs, 195 hectares of mangroves and 42 hectares of seaweeds.

Scientists have warned that the environmental impact of the spill would linger longer than its damaging effects on the island's economy.

Yet results last year showed the island's coastal environment has not worsened from the spill, with marine plants and animals showing signs of abnormalities associated with the spill.

The Parañaque Labay ng Kilusang Mamamayan ng Pilipinas Pilipinas (Kalipi), a militant group of fishermen, called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to compel Petron to pay at least P20 billion victims of the oil spill.

It also asked the DENR to compel Petron to set aside another P10 billion to repair damages the spill brought to Guimaras.

Fernando Hicap, Panlalawigan national chair, said Petron has yet to fulfill a promise to finance the rehabilitation of Guimaras and compensate the people who suffered livelihood loss because of the spill.

"Until now there is no justice to victims of the Guimaras oil spill," said the group in a statement.

The London-based International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, an intergovernmental agency that indemnifies losses from oil spills, has paid a total of P908,130,263 in 22,407 claimants. It, however, rejected the claims of 133,000 others.

THANKS to a new round of technical assistance (TA) rounds by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, city officials visited other cities to view the brackish waters of Burnham Lake.

PHOTO BY ARMANDO ESPINOSA JR.

'Koi' brings hope for more tourists in Burnham Lake

BAGUIO CITY—Cleaning up the manmade Burnham Lake could take thousands of environmental fish variety that a fisheries official said offers the best hope for improved tourism in one of Baguio's top off-tourist spots.

Dr. Wendy Rosario, head of the Bureau Of Fisheries And Aquatic Resources Research Center in Dagupan City, and Mayor Mauricio Domogan released 10,000 koi fingerlings into the 1.6-hectare lake on Tuesday, confident these would survive.

In June, tests made by city government showed that the lake water's biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels (the amount of dissolved oxygen required to consume organic life in the lake) had reached 22 parts/m, according to a report.

The report, released by former Mayor Bernardo Bautista Jr., said the lake's dirty water would be used to water plants and to irrigate compared to water treated by the Baguio sewage treatment plant, which registered 7 to 10 percent BOD levels after cleaning.

Many of the functions and drainage tunnels lead straight to the lake, according to old maps kept by the government's public utilities and zoning office.

But Rosario noted the lake has stock and found that all specimens of koi have begun to pose a run of powdered lime into the water to bring down high alkalinity levels.

"Outside the lime. There is enough plankton here to feed the koi ... In six months, we should have carp that you can fish," Rosario said in a ceremony organized by the city government and the Lions Club.

Benedicto Albaston, city tourism officer, said a 1988 ordinance allowed fishing at the lake.

Rosario also endorsed "periodic game fishing" as a push attraction, as well as casino grilling to complement plans to introduce trail stages with the carp. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Strip show in jail puts 11 policemen in hot water

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—It's a rare march otor at a disciplinary camp for 11 policemen in Mangaldan town who were accused of luring a woman for a strip show in the town jail on July 18.

Sgt. Frankie Candelario, chief of the investigation and detection management branch of the Pangasinan police, said the 11 policemen have been referred pending investigation and are undergoing character and aptitude development training at the regional police office in San Fernando City in La Union.

While they were out in the Mangaldan police station on the night of July 18 when the incident happened, Supt. Roberto Sioud, Mangaldan police chief, and Chief Insp. Edward Umale, the duty officer, were also relieved for command responsibility or possible neglect of duty. They were also sent to the regional police camp.

Text tip

The cases were investigated after a text message, sent by an anonymous sender to the Philippine National Police (PNP) hotline, alerted provincial police officials about the incident.

The message claimed seven of Mangaldan policemen hired a woman to perform a strip show midnight of July 18 at a detention cell in the municipal jail.

The policemen on duty that night were SPO4 Nestor Quijada, SPO1 Rafael Cotton, PO2 Leandro Dantioco, PO3 Felicisimo Manzanilla, PO2 Frederick Sentz, PO2 Manuel Chavez, PO1 Nonell Rodriguez, PO1 Richard Tibigan, PO2 Eric Mercader, PO2 Freddie Cristino and PO1 Samuel Mabezin.

Candelario said the investigation conducted by the provincial police has been concluded, but he declined to give details on the findings.

Probe

He said the investigation report and recommendations had been sent to the regional police office as part of administrative proceedings that would establish the extent of the policemen's participation in the incident and their liabilities.

"I leave to the regional police director to sanction the officers," he said.

Chief Insp. Chito Estocada, the new Mangaldan police chief, said he has been meeting with his men daily to remind them of proper behavior as policemen.

Nine policemen from San Fabian, San Jacinto and Sison, all town towns were temporarily assigned to Mangaldan until the case is resolved. Johanna Morden, Inquirer Northern Luzon

GOVERNMENT soldiers help remove oil particles that have blackened a mangrove forest in a village in Guimaras following an oil spill in August 2006. Four years after, Guimaras is back on its feet, according to its governor.

Children's book tries to keep alive Pangasinan dialect

By Yolanda Bonda
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—A children's book couched solely in pure Pangasinan dialect will be available soon as popular bedtime, courtesy of the Ulupan na Pamanyanyi's Salitan Pangasinan (UPSP), a literary group that advocates the preservation of this dying language.

The "Pamitnoon ya Mulapot Ya Haughty Deret?" is written and illustrated by Erwin Fernandez, 28, a holder of Master of Arts in Literature from the University of the Philippines.

The book is melancholic tale about obedience and humility.

Fernandez, a resident of Urdaneta City, says he decided to come up with a book "because it is important for Pangasinan writers to write stories for children, in the language and for children to read stories in their native tongue."

He says in his youth, he used to read children's stories published in the Liwayway magazine, which were sent by his aunt in London.

"I read the Bunny and the Bear, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, and many others. It is sad that today's children, [like] my grandchild, have no opportunity to read stories in their own language," says Fernandez, who graduated cum laude as a history major at UP.

"Pamitnoon ya Mulapot" is a 30-page book with illustrations and English translations. The book is about a boy, a bird, the author says, "is not a good example of good conduct."

"In this story, a family of doves is deprived for being humble and modest. But one of its children goes up against the advice of Father Dove that they should not grow up in public because arrogance may lead them to pestilence," read a book dedication to parents and teachers.

Fernandez says he story shows to the children that they should follow the counsel of their parents and avoid being conceited.

"If we also teach them that every choice of action, either good or bad, has its consequence," he says.

THE COVER of "Pamitnoon ya Mulapot Ya Haughty Deret," a children's book written in the Pangasinan dialect and illustrated by Erwin Fernandez, 28, who hopes to help keep the Pangasinan dialect alive through his work.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A19

HOMETOWN Snapshots

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Return of Bicol Express brings memories, anxieties to 'home along da riles' folk

By Dello T. Muñoz
Lucena City

THE DISTRICT of the wood rail tracks at the Philippine National Railways crossing, which divides the city proper and Barangay Cotta, is blocked with galvanized iron sheets that serve as cover to the 24-hour construction frenzy inside the premises of the old Lucena train station.

For the neighborhood around the station, the signs of the resumption of PNR's Metro Bicol trips in September have stirred a mixture of anxiety and promise of positive change in their economic condition.

"The PNR neighborhood has long been waiting for the resumption of the train trips. The people there expect the arrival of their former source of livelihood—selling food and drinks and cargo handling for train passengers," said Rustom Perez, 48, president of the neighborhood dubbed as Purok Pagkakaisa.

But behind the excitement and optimism, Perez also echoed the creeping apprehension of most of the residents living along "da riles" that they would soon be forced to demolish their houses as part of the clearing operation being conducted by the PNR.

FACES of anxiety of residents living along "da riles" in Lucena City

PHOTO BY DELLO T. MUÑOZ

Worry

"Most of the people here are also worried that they will be forced to leave the place and transfer to a new and unfamiliar place far from here. It's a Damocles sword hanging over their heads. Some are happy, some are sad," Perez said.

He said the PNR had already surveyed the neighborhood and identified the houses that would be demolished once the train trips resume operations.

"But the relocation site has yet to be identified. My hope [but it will be] is that the affected families will not be really uprooted from here," Perez said.

The PNR stopped its Manila-Bicol Mainline service several years ago due to heavy damages wrought by pass supertyphoons on portions of its tracks starting from Calamba City in Laguna to Legaspi City in Albay.

But according to some old residents of Purok Pagkakaisa, even before the destruction of the tracks, the train trips were already scanty.

"Maybe because of the availability of passenger buses, most of them air-conditioned, that began to service the Manila-Bicol route," said Rhea Mendoza.

Rich stories

Residents have rich stories to share on how the present dilapidated train station had provided them with livelihood opportunities.

Virginia Alvarado-Palicias remembered how she helped her mother by tending their coffee and cigarettes stall at the passengers' waiting area.

"The earnings from the stall provided me and my siblings with our daily school allowances from elementary up to college," she said.

She remembered how she also used to sell soft drinks and coffee to train passengers whenever she was free from school.

"Para tayong every weekend, midnight and even in the wee hours of the morning, whenever we heard the booming hum of the approaching train, it would rouse us and we would immediately grab whatever stuff to sell and rush to the crossing," she said.

Perez also remembered how he lounged on to train diners while it was still running, resorting to best other vendors of soft drinks and cold water in peddling their wares inside the still moving vehicle. Cold water in plastic containers or soup to go bottle sold at 50 centavos.

"It was dangerous but it was also fun. My daily allowance when I was in high school was $5 and it was already big for an ordinary student back then," he said.

Adele Dato selling foodstuff, Perez also joined the nostalgia PNR fans in lauding and applauding train vendors, mostly tales of trips from southern Quezon.

"If I earned P20 a day that was quite previous money back in the early '70s even if my back was aching," he said with a laugh.

Pablo Villanueva, 69, who also worked with the local PNR station as a construction worker, said his wife Evelyn also used to sell beadstuff to train passengers.

"The evening helped us financially a lot. There were lots of buyers because back then, the trains were the major mode of travel. The number of buses plying the Bicol Manila route were still limited," he said.

Never sleeps

Villanueva described the PNR station as a neighborhood that never sleeps. "The whole community was full of life 24 hours. The trains regularly stopped here in the morning, high noon, afternoon, evening and dawn. We used to call every passing train by its numbers, 'orbit,' 'dyan,'—it was not Bicol Express," he said.

Manuel Reggay, head of the PNR engineering crew that has been preparing the tracks from Calamba City to Gumaca, Quezon, said the Manila-Bicol train run is scheduled to start again on the third week of September to ease the burden of Filipinos in Naga City.

The PNR engineering crew is busy reconditioning prestressed concrete block to replace the antiquated wood sleepers.

THE KIDS of canvass families at the depotbed Philippine National Railways passenger waiting area in Lucena City, are just another playground for children.

Empowering the community thru day-care centers

By Marian Cinco
Los Baños, Laguna

IN A DISTANT town in Laguna, the day-care center is a cramped portion of the village hall half the size of a regular room.

Every day, the day-care worker has to bring home her reading tools on a wagon, since leaving them at the village hall will eat up space of the government office.

In other towns, the day-care centers either have no water supply or no toilets at all. Others are situated at the backyard of the mayor's house separated only by a wall, or near a health center, putting children at risk of catching illnesses.

Facilities, which should be conducive to learning, are only among the concerns of the Day Care Services Center (DCSC) based in the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna.

"The DCSC is mandated to provide a support system and capacity building to barangay (village) day-care workers. It helps ensure the proximity of day-care workers and the children to help cut to the community," said Dean Ivan Lita Angeles of the UPLB's College of Human Ecology (CHE).

Training

In Laguna, there are 730 day-care centers, with 730 workers.

Around 50 pupils are attending each class, which is usually held twice a day.

There are at present 40,000 day-care centers in the country.

The CHE, in collaboration with the Bondpaper Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), formed the DCSC in 2006 as the first and only day-care program center in the country.

The DCSC has formulated training programs on basic day-care administration and operations and on early childhood care and development for the day-care workers.

Empowering

"Your client is not only the child, but the whole community. The child is a member of the family and the family is a member of the community," Angeles said on the day-care workers.

However, she observed that "not everybody has a background in education or in child development. There are some who took up commerce or even computer courses."

She said day-care workers are usually appointed by the village chief.

"The DCSC saw the need of leveling these basic skills [of the workers]," Angeles said.

"Before, I easily lost my temper when the children did not behave well. But [after the training] I realized that in handling children, you have to treat them gently and warmly," said Cesarea Sanchez, 43, who has been a day-care worker in Alita town for 13 years now.

"They have to realize that being a day-care worker doesn't only mean looking after the children. The workers have a big responsibility over the child's future he would be growing up with. In the absence of the parents, the day-care workers are the role models," said Ingalagal.

The trainings, she said, are aimed at empowering and boosting the day-care workers' confidence in handling these tasks.

According to the PSWDO, day-care centers, especially in big towns, receive fully support from the municipal government.

The workers are paid around P6,000 to P8,000 a month.

However, due to remote areas, the day-care centers classified as "parent-organized" survive only through contributions of an average of P50 to P100 from each student.

The provincial government provides a subsidy of P1,000 to ease the workers' load.

"There are also among the topics being discussed—how could they seek support from their LGUs (local government units), barangays, their workers do not only teach but they are also as role-playing counselors," said Ingalagal.

Professionalizing

Quoting an earlier report from the education department, Laguna Board Member Nol Nocon said 40 percent of Filipino students lack skills in Math and English.

"I'm sure the numbers are higher. Perhaps this is because we have become more focused on the high school and college levels, not forgetting that intervention of us has to be done at the formative years," he said.

The DCSC is proposing to the national government a replication of the project in other provinces, especially in the Visayas and Mindanao.

In 2009, Barangay City was the first LGU outside Laguna to have its day-care workers train with the DCSC.

Ingalagal said the project is moving toward improving the quality of education at the barangay level that would make day-care centers of par with private preschools, which pose families concern of both.

"What is being developed [at the day-care centers] is the love for learning. Who knows? Our future leaders might be among those students," she added.

GOVERNMENT day-care workers are asked to observe proper practices in handling children at the laboratory of the College of Human Ecology on Early Childhood and Development Program at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Tams seek repeat vs Falcons in UAAP today

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH A PERFECT record and boasting the league's best players, Far Eastern University braces for tougher challenges from opponents determined to exact revenge.

The Tamaraws aim to stretch their unbeaten run to eight games against the Adamson Falcons at the end of the second round of the UAAP men's basketball elimination today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It's not over. We have to double our preparation," said coach Glenn Capacio, whose Tamaraws swept the first round at 7-0 behind the leadership of MVP frontrunner Bill Gavela. "We know all the teams are preparing hard for us."

The Tamaraws and the Falcons, sharing second with the defense Blue Eagles at 5-2, clash in the 4 p.m. second game.

University of Santo Tomas, reigning MVP at 3-4, goes going at 2 p.m. against a University of the East side aiming to turn its fortunes around.

"We still have to improve the way we execute our plays and our defense," said Garcia, the 6-foot, 3.5 MG guard leading the league in scoring at 17.7 points.

But Adamson coach Leo Austria expects a better game from his confident Falcons, who picked up five victories in the first round, the school's finest since the league adopted the Final Four format in 1994.

"I think we have a good home-ground advantage if we stick to our system," said Austria. "In our good plays, we're overwhelming."

The Falcons hope to avenge their nine-second outlook against the Tamaraws, 74-65, last Aug. 1.

"After reviewing the game against FEU, we realized that our defense collapsed," said Austria. "But given another chance, I think we'll have a good game."

The Tigers, meanwhile, hope to recover from back-to-back losses that pushed them down to a share of fifth with the National U Bulldogs.

The Warriors, but you'll cannot say but is now between on 1-6, try to halt their alarming skid behind top guard Paul Lee.

MARC BARACHEL (L) fit of Smart Gilas Pilipinas goes for a jumper against Qatar during their match yesterday in the Stankovic Cup. AP

Qatar holds off Smart Gilas RP

Nationals await q'final foe

QATAR SUSPENDED a blazing start to eclipse the Smart Gilas Pilipinas five, 86-81, Tuesday for its third straight win in Group B of the Fiba-Asia Stankovic Cup at the Ghazir Stadium in Beirut, Lebanon.

Striking mightily with its core of athletic, naturalized Africans, Qatar opened the game with a 21-6 run before weathering a rally that brought the Filipinos within five points, 50-45, with three minutes and 43 seconds remaining.

"We fought hard against Qatar but some up short. I'm still happy because we fought back after a poor start," said Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman.

Smart Gilas, which bent by its said Jordan allies on opening loss to Lebanon, streaming with a 2-2 record and got a two-day break before seeing action in the quarterfinals on Friday.

As No. 3 behind Lebanon and Qatar, the Filipinos will face the second-ranked squad in Group A, where a three-way battle among Iran, Kazakhstan and Chinese Taipei for first place was being streaked in the final playdate of the elimination late last night.

Qatar was enjoying a 39-47 lead when the Filipinos mounted a rally capped by Jayson Baldwin's triple that made it 61-56.

The Filipinos then pulled off a series of defensive stops but couldn't connect on their next three possessions.

Gavin Thiri's three-pointer cooled RP's shooting drought, 59-64, but three early 20 seconds remained.

"We must have to rest and give everything we have in the quarterfinals," said Toroman.

Filipino Tongan Ati Tualava, the lone country's tender-aged 20-on Coca-Cola, led an all-eight, contributing only five points a day after a 13-point, 12-rebound effort against Jordan.

Jane Bautista

Scores:

QATAR (86)—Ajandu 28, Al-Ali 13, Ismail 8, Baker 6, Al-Saad 7, Ismail 2, Ismail 4, Al-Mohammed 2.

SMART GILAS (81)—Castillo 19, Yu 13, Barroca 10, Cahilig 8, Andrada 6, Aguilar 5, Tautuaa 5, Demusis 4, Dalisay 2.

Quarters: 17-9, 27-27, 52-45, 86-81

NBA legends team up with PBA counterparts

By Cedrik F. Tapao

IMAGINE AVERY Patrick-mania kicking out in a wide open Mitch Ritchmond for a triple or Bernie Magnano throwing a lob for an alley-hoop to a streaking Chris Webber.

Earthlier, Glen Rice and Allen Caddy taking turns in shooting the lights out of the collusion-a-Gary Dayton running the break with Jerald Honeycutt and Donyell Marshall.

The possibilities are endless when a slew of NBA Legends steal their scenes together with heroes and current PBA stars in the NBA Asia Challenge on Aug. 27 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sixteen and Richmond, who have 12 NBA all-star Game appearances between them, former Team Willie stars including Magnano and Patrimonio.

Rice, the 1997 All-Star Game Most Valuable Player, and Patrick, a nine-time All-Star and NBA champion with the Richmond in 2006, will be at the front-line of Team Blue.

Joining Webber and Richmond in Team White are two-time PBA Most Valuable Player Benjie Paras, champion PBA players Jerdan Honeycutt, Dave Marcelino and Donald Tolbert and NBA D-League standouts Mark Tyndale and Robbie Feidler, also a former import in the PBA.

Aside from Rice, Shaino, Caddy, Ivanica and Mcraven, Team Blue is also composed of PBA legend Jerry Codinera, PBA Del Carmen team members LA Tenorio and Arwind Santos, Air Enforcer and NBA D-League players Darnell Lazaro and Gian McCoy.

Tickets for the NBA Asia Challenge, presented by Solar TV and supported by the NBA, are on sale at Ticketnet outlets.

RETIREMENT

CAUSE

PENGUIN

SSC-Excelroof, Ateneo target top V-League slot

By Jasmine W. Payo

PALEETTERS SAN Sebastian-Excelroof and Ateneo hope to wrap up their elimination wins with victories against separate opponents in the Shakey's V-League Season 7 second conference today at the FEUD-Philsug U Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Stags, the title favorites tied with the Lady Eagles at 5-1, clash with the Far Eastern U Lady Tamaraws at 2 p.m.

"We want to win it (the L)," said San Sebastian coach Roger Gonzaga. "It's important that we have a good ranking to ease our way to the semifinals."

The Lady Eagles and the Adamson Lady Falcons, sharing third with the Lady Tams at 4-2, tangle in the second game at 4 p.m.

The Lady Stags, who are competing against three-time second runner-up Ateneo in the six-team conference's quarterfinal round.

Mile Lacsamana occupied the fifth spot at 6-3, while league newcomers National University and Perpetual Help, tied at 2-5, dispute the last quarterfinal berth in a playoff on Sunday.

The Lady Stags hope to close another solid game from reigning Jose Rizalite, the Thai spiker-booming league-best 42.62 percent clip.

But aside from Rizalite, who averages 22 points, Ateneo also expects the lead over last year's last conference's MVP harmony Bravo, Aby Bonito, Melissa Jilmonti and Elaine Cruz to provide firepower.

The Lady Tams expect to rounds up behind Rachel Daquis, Michelle Carolino, Cherry Mae Wacyan and Kathleen Magsaysay.

Female GM enters Pichay, Campo tilts

ROMA STANDMASTER Precy Romero, the world's newest highest-rated female chess player ever, will be competing in both the 6th Philippine Pichay Jr. Cup and the 2nd Fernando Campomanes Memorial tournament this month.

The 23-year-old Romero, who ranks only GM in all Filipino chessboards but female players ranks with her 2,a rating of 2500, will join the Open section of the Pichay Cup on Aug. 27-28 and the Campomanes Cup on Aug. 28 to Sept. 2 at the Pinoy Square Chambers.

The historymaking lassie accumulated a total of $ 30,000, the bulk of $ 50,000 allocated to the Commonwealth Cup by Philippine Grand Slam Chess, a joint brainchild of Manila Pilgrim Jewelry and tournament benefactor.

Heading the lady list of foreign players coming arrives are Judit Ki Wai Li, Diana and Zhao Xue, all of China, Mihael Stefanski of Belarus and Indian Pridon of Uzbekistan.

Ababa, Piccio tab US Women's Am match play slots

FILIPINO BITS MIGHT Ababa and Ellie Piccio banged into the match play phase of the US Women's Amateur Golf Championship at the Chambers Bay Golf Course in University Place, Washington.

Quingnon and Ababa Union Golf by the wayside at the close of the 36-hole stroke play eliminations at the Chambers Country Club in Chambers, North Carolina, Tuesday.

The 20-year-old Ababa went on a birdie binge at the back nines (the second, going three under after eight holes. But she faltered with three bogeys in the last 10 holes and settled for an even par 72 for a 145.

That gave Ababa a joint 54th finish among the 64 survivors and set her up for a duel with Colle Kobus of Taiwan at 11:40 in the first round of the knockout phase Wednesday.

Piccio struggled on the putting green and bogeyed the last two holes and turned in a two-over 74, finishing in joint 33rd at 146. She faces Juliana Gallo of Colombia (147) in the match play opener.

"Sarah is playing solid while Ellie needs to polish her putting stroke to gain in the match play," said ICTSI coach Rong Lopez.

Beverly Medina, 10, also advanced with a second straight 73 and a 146, arranging a showdown with Emily Fabert of California's who had a 146.

Quingnon struggled with a 77 for a 151 that lost to a six-player playoff for the last berth won by Isabel Hau of Hong Kong's Union, bounded by four straight bogeys to the back, missed the cut after a 79-154.

OFFICIALLY say Team Philippines is capable of producing strongly in the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. The team, back to fifty Phua was accompanied on, includes (from left) coach Jayson Patrimonio, weightlifting's Patricia Grace Amsbrobill's Michael Pais, Michael Rosario and Jerson Teng, swimmers Jasmine Al-Khalili and Jessie Lacuna, and taekwondo's Kirk Barbosa.

Youth Olympic bets all strong medal hopes

By Mac Anthony Reyes

EVERYBODY IS capable of winning a medal.

That was the bold prediction of sports officials yesterday for the nine band of Filipino athletes competing in Singapore in the first-ever Youth Olympic Games set Aug. 14 to 26 at the Bishan Sports Hall.

Chief of mission Mark Joseph said the nine athletes, who arrived in Singapore two days ago, have passed the high qualifying standards for the event featuring some 3,600 of history Olympic superstars aged 14 to 18.

"This is a very select group of young athletes that made it to the YOG, given the difficult qualifying standards," Joseph said in an unruffled statement.

Filipino flag-bearer Patricia Llanes is one of the favorites in weightlifting, and tennis bets Patricia Amelie is currently No. 42 in the junior world rankings.

Bobby Ray Pablo Jr., Jerson Teng, Cris Michael Fortunato and Michael Anthony Pons of basketball, Jasmine Alkhalili and Jessie Mae Lacuna of swimming, and Kirk Barbosa of taekwondo complete the 9P team.

"All are capable of winning the medal. Internationally, I cannot say because we do not have the same bars at Bishan," added Joseph.

Joseph said the athletes are upbeat despite the heavyweight among sports officials who they were in the thick of preparations for the Games.

He is also expecting the support of an estimated 100,000 Filipinos based in Singapore to cheer for the young Filipino athletes.

Celebrity hoops hits road

THE CELEBRITY Cagecoin Cup (CC), a fun basketball tournament among movie and TV stars and corporate movers, continues its tournament run with its Inter Sports playing tropicovers in prep on the road.

Solar Sports has to its for now all its three games in the event.

The squad is backed by UE Derby Phoenix, which has also thrown its support to the league.

Louie B. Gamboa, president and CEO of UE Derby Phoenix, has signed to support CC, organized by Jack Ricky as part of its commitment to sports.

"We support CC because we have an interest and we share in their ideals that one needs to be involved in sports activities for their wellness," said Gamboa.

UE Derby Phoenix is not new to sports having been a partner of the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) since last year.

"We're planning to help other sports organizing," said Gamboa.

SOLAR Sports, led by basketball columnist Sev Sarmenta (third from right, standing), continues to lead the CC basketball tournament.

126 Asiad bets get POC nod

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee yesterday formally approved 126 athletes to the Guangzhou Asian Games on November with more 80 have expected to be added in the ensuing weeks.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. said more athletes from team sports have yet to qualify based on the Asiad criteria which is a championship in the Southeast Asian Games or any equivalent competition.

"I can't predict anything yet because I have not seen the athletes and there are teams like (badminton and basketball teams) which have yet to qualify, but I'm pleased to have acted I'm seeing right now," Cojuangco said the beginning.

He said the slated preparation has been boosted with the renewed strong relationship between the POC and the Philippine Sports Commission whose chair Richie Garcia saw present during the POC executive board meeting.

"All I can say is that it's a lot easier to do things (operational) now," added Cojuangco, who didn't work well with former PSC chair Henry Aquino.

Asked chief of mission Jose Romasanta said most of the approved athletes represent softball, men's basketball, billiards, dance, bowling and taekwondo.

Expected to make it to the drug-tested team composed of 90 male and women athletes, who have yet to take part in the not venue in Guangzhou for the month to formalize their inclusion.

No conflict, says Pacman

MANNY PACQUIAO is certain his boxing career won't interfere with his duties as congressman of Sarangani Province.

The seven-division champion said he's even willing to sleep in his office and do his training at the famous Freedom complex for his upcoming fight against Mexican boxer Miguel Cotto on Nov. 13.

"I can sleep in my office, so that I can jog around the complex before the session or boxing," Pacquiao told reporters set in Filipino yesterday.

Pacquiao said he can adjust his schedule so that his training won't overlap with Congress committee hearings held in the morning and his presence in the Monday to Wednesday session starting at 4 p.m.

"I have no problem with that, like what I said, it's just a matter of time management," he said.

According to Pacquiao, the 14-hour congress, where the House of Representatives is located, is big enough for his jogging and to ring exercises while the gym can accommodate his sparring partners, including physiotherapist.

The 31-year-old Fighter of the Decade will clash with Marquette for the vacant World Boxing Association super welterweight championship either in the United States or in Mexico.

Alexandrite, Hall of Famer Freddie Roach told Angeles-boxing.com Saturday that he is leaving for the Philippines on Sept. 13 to relay Pacquiao here in top shape. Ray Gamboa

Lions, Stags rip hapless NC foes

By Cedrik P. Tapia

SAN SEBASTIAN said San Beda wanted up for their eagerly awaited clash with unrelenting victories reminding that exended their winning streak to the 86th NCAA basketball tournament at the FIBA Hiring V Arena in San Juan.

The Red Lions used another tournament second-half effort to dump St. Benilde, 87-61, for their seventh straight triumph, a feat later matched by the defending champion Stags, who crushed the winless Cheetahs, 69-56.

Calvin Abueva, making his claim as the best player in the league, struck again with 17 points and 17 rebounds to power the Stags, whose strategy was executed by the quicker-of-point Gilbert Gonzalez in the third quarter for outscoring a pair of Baptist foes.

With a Red offense and a suffocating defense, San Beda broke away in the third period and proved unrelenting in the fourth as it showed its toughness for the way. 18 threw-down with the lineup, who swept the Lions in the finals last year.

"I think they're all prepped up for the big game," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim.

Arlie Dela Rosa spearheaded SBC's flying duel in the second half to finish with 14 points while Garvo Lanete, returning from a one-game absence due to mild sprain, finished the job with 10 of his 12 points in the fourth period.

San Beda extended a 27-23 halftime lead to 10-47 by the end of the third quarter.

Lanete sealed off six straight points before John Pascual buried a jumper as the Lions put the game to bed, 71-51, with five minutes remaining.

"We started to make our shots in the third quarter and that ignited our big second half run," said Ojay, who will expressed reason to overwhelm Cheetahs in the first half. "Our method of limiting their scores and their point guards."

Subsequently proved to be another key for the Lions, who dominated the Blazers, 46-23, off the boards.

San Beda's Lanete signed set up a sweep of the Benilde with a 71-47 victory over the Junior Blazers that locked up the Red Cubs' record to 6-1. San Sebastian dumped Southeast, 72-70, and improved its 4-3.

The scores:

First Game

SAN BEDA (87) — Dela Rosa 14, Lanete 12, A. Pascual 9, Daniel 9, Ilustrisimo 7, Pascual 6, Chakrabortty 5, Ramos 5, Lo. Tenorio 4, D. Tenorio 3, Mendoza 2, Whitney 2, Ilustrisimo 0, Salenga 0.

ST. BENILDE (61) — Ilustrisimo 24, Lalimarmo 14, Tan 8, Ilustrisimo 6, Mercio 4, Dela Paz 4, Arabe 3, Tabor 2, Wong 2, Ilustrisimo 2, Ilustrisimo 2, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 16-14, 27-23, 46-47, 87-61

Second Game

SAN SEBASTIAN (72) — Manuel 17, Hernandez 17, Hernandez 12, Hernandez 7, Arcilla 7, Hernandez 5, Hernandez 4, Hernandez 3, Hernandez 0, Hernandez 0, Hernandez 0, Hernandez 0.

ARELLANO U. (70) — Celada 26, Zubiri 13, Arabe 9, Lanete 9, Celada 4, De Ocampo 3, Arabe 2, Ilustrisimo 2, Ilustrisimo 2, Celada 0, Celada 0, Celada 0.

Quarters: 16-21, 38-38, 46-47, 72-70

Big leap for Ryan

I WOKE up unusually early Tuesday at the crack of dawn. As was my habit, I immediately reached for my cellphone to look at the time.

It was only 5:4...ho, too early to rise. I noted an unread text message which must have been sent after I had drifted off to sleep past midnight.

It was from Ryan Gregorio.

"I just finished my negotiation with Manolo Fortich. What is just pending is the Manolo application at the PBA. Everything will be finalized in a meeting, PBA (Commissioner Emilio) Gilligan's press conference on my transfer, to which I will eventually be indicted," was his brief message.

At first I thought I had a wrong, but without a problem could be quicker me with additional details on Ryan's new employment. I realized that the latest big move may have already been known by the entire basketball community.

"Ryan has signed a five-year package with Manolo which has not only helped him but also brought the PBA team, but also an assistant vice president for sports and head of basketball operations," said the young scribe who obviously knew more than I did.

Ryan said he has accepted Hayden's invitation for him to spearhead the company's sports advocacy program because "it is in line with my own personal conviction which is to help the younger generation discussing with basketball as the medium."

With Manolo's active participation in social activities, Ryan said he would be able to reach a larger team to execute his personal belief that "basketball can be a ticket out of poverty."

"It allows us to explore a new dimension in my life and to use time. A corporate position with the rank of AVP-Sports and head of basketball operations enables me to embark on other coaching," Ryan said.

Last Sunday, just before his final talks with Manolo people, Ryan gathered all the courage he could muster to meet Ronnie Ang face to face.

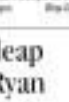
"I wanted to personally thank him and ask for his blessing. He has been so kind and generous. I am lucky to have been given the opportunity to work for a man like him," said Ryan, who feels that he is faced with the task of building a new team from ground zero in Manolo.

"But the five-year coaching guarantee should be enough time to gradually work on the foundation that would make the team competitive over the long haul."

Ryan said it gives him enormous satisfaction that he is leaving Powerhouse B-Meg on a high note.

"A championship, the most number of wins (41) in a season for the franchise, and the perseverance to succeed are some of the legacies I will leave behind, in Hope's new beginning and a new challenge."

IN HUDDLE



Beth Cirby

Manila softbelles book World Series finals slot

PLAYING AT the right time, Team Manila whipped the US Southwest squad from West Monroe, Louisiana, by 1, Tuesday, to book a return trip to the Big League Softball World Series finals on the Tuesday-long Path in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The Manila softbelles peppered the Americans with 10 hits while pitcher Julie Marie Meyers, Veronica Ballesta and Christine Hassenger combined to hold West Monroe to just two hits.

Manila finished with a 6-2 record in the elimination round, earning a shot at the title Thursday against US Central team Grand Rapids, Michigan, the same team that beat the Filipinos, 3-1, in the 2008 title match.

The championship match is set at 6 p.m. Wednesday (8 a.m. Thursday in Manila) and will be beamed live on national TV via ESPN2 in the United States.

"I think we'll get the championship this time," said a confident Randy Dizon, who coaches the Manila squad together with Jose Santiago and Filomeno "Boy" Gallaroza.

Tested-weary and lacking sleep, the Filipinos dropped their first two matches, including a 1-2 decision to Grand Rapids in their first game.

But Santiago and Grand Rapids will be facing a "better team" than the one they faced in the elimination round.

"The girls are playing better and better" said Santiago. "We haven't forgotten about the loss in 2008 (finals) and we want to avenge that and finally bring home the title."

Manila lost the finals two years ago via a walkoff home run with two outs in the seventh and last inning.

Already assured of a spot in the finals, Grand Rapids pulled its pitcher and leaved to US first, 2-3, to wind up with the best record of 7-1 in the elimination.

Cedrik P. Tapia

Shaq's target: Six teams, six titles

HOMEGROWN FOOTBALL CHAMPS Ateneo Grade School's Under-10 Team-B members show off their medals and trophy after topping the recent Happy Valley dala Youth Soccer Festival which was held at King's Park in Kowloon, Hong Kong. The seven-set participated by teams from Japan, China, Hong Kong and Thailand. Team members are AGS Grade 4 students (standing from left) Joaquin Miguel Marco, Lars Harold Perreras, Antonio Jose Santillan III, Patrick Xavier Javeina, Raul Miguel Marie Garcia, Tito Vincent V. Pastores, and coach Lyndon Zamora and (seated from left), Marco Borja, Luis Carlos Gonzalo Rongavilla, Jake Hess, James Joaquin Fernando and Angelo Grace Limuk. Not in photo is team member Alfredo Miguel Gonzalez. The head coached the AGS contingent are Coach Rod Mariano. Other participating teams and their respective team standings were: Nishant Taren (Under-9 Team-A, 2nd place); Jervis Bobias (U-10 B, 3rd place), Rhea Pascua (U-9 B, 2nd place), Kaede Ishizawa (U-12 A, 4th place) and Jeremiah de Veyra (U-12 B).

Bayron sets Cebu Aboitiz golf pace with 66

Photograph A41

won the RP Am title as a 17-year-old 10 years ago, had four birdies against two bogeys with Angelo Que, the former player in the circuit after winning in Malaysia last week, settling for a below-par 70 in the second round.

"I still like it a lot," Que, who had three birdies against a lone bogey that came on the short par-4 ninth hole, told the keynote. "Anything can still happen in a course rendered soft."

Antonio Lascuña, another Asian Tour veteran, was also four shots off the like Que and six others, including former PF Open and RP Masters champion Robert Rizzuto and amateurs Arnel Sabio and Mark Fernando.

Fifty-two players were seven shots or less behind with reigning RP Open champion Elmer Salonoy, who lost a seven tournament as Del Monte two weeks ago for a rules infraction, Eding at 71.

The 54-hole event presented by the International Container Terminal Services Inc. is sponsored by Aboitiz Equity Ventures and organized by Philippine Golf Tours events Inc. and backed by Mil Carp golf, Ingram Land Resorts Inc., Bell Worldwide, Pinpoint, Mizuno, Asian Tour, Callaway Golf, Odyssey and Golf Digest and media partners Business Mirror, Abante, Golf Digest, Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Inquirer Golf Weekly.

The leading scores:

66—L. Bayron (3-2), E. Salonoy (3-2), M. Fernando (3-2), A. Lascuña (3-2), R. Rizzuto (3-2), A. Sabio (3-2), A. Que

Editor Teddyboy B. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

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Bayron sets Cebu golf pace with 66

By Mayong R. Castillo

CEBU CITY—Jay Bayron flashed near-flawless form in ideal conditions, shooting a six-under-par 66 yesterday for a one-stroke lead after the opening round of the Manila International at the exclusive Cebu Country Club layout here.

With heavy overnight rains delaying the start by an hour and making the greens receptive, Bayron assembled nines of 33-33 with the only blemish coming on the last hole when he missed the fairway for a bogey.

Winner rules never in effect because of soggy fairways and what should have been a beast of a short course proved a haven for birdies as 21 players cranked par with Jun Bertis, the former RP Am and DAL champ still looking for a breakthrough win as a pro, alone in second after a 67.

Mervin Hernandez and Antonio Hortelano, tie with two strokes off the pace after 18s with the revered Frankie Minoza, veteran Rey Paguenza and Dondonon Eadio Tan Dee Mili lurking another shot back after churning out identical 34-33 cards for 68s.

Allan Ringler, a rookie pro out of Cantabaog, also had a 68 built on three birdies on the front nine.

Bayron grassed down three birds in his last four holes on the front nine for his outward 33. He got it down to seven under before failing to execute par on the 10th from 18 feet.

"I don't know. I seem to be very eager in the final round and it has affected my short game," said Bayron when asked why he has not been able to close out tournaments this season.

Bernie had six birdies against a missed green bogey on the par-3. This in his first start in a tournament this season.

Minoza, playing the course where he

GAME Freeman (front) of San Miguel Beer soars to the hoop against Alaska's Dierson Simpson. The Beermen were playing the Aces in prime time hoping to win 3-0 in Pasay's Conference finals series deficit. The night also belonged to Denby Ace gunner Jonnie Yap (left photo), who received his second Most Valuable Player trophy. JAMES DE JESUS

Yap gets 2nd MVP award

By Cedelf P. Tupas

JAMES YAP has always found refuge on the hardcourt.

Even when he was a kid growing up in Escalante City, Negros Occidental, the playing court, he said, has always served as his sanctuary, keeping him away from trouble and momentarily pushing his problems in the background.

It was no different in the latter part of his early career in the 1980s.

Keeping his focus in the face of his unsalubrious personal problems, the was named the 1984 Most Valuable Player during the annual Leo Awards last night, becoming only the eighth player in league history to win the honor at least twice.

Buoyed by votes from the media and the PBA television panel, the Rolling Derby ace star accumulated 2,377 points to claim the award in runaway fashion.

Yap then joined Alvin Patrimonio, Ramon Fernandez, William Adornado, Abet Guidaben, Benjie Paras, Willie Miller and Danny Ildefonso as the players to have won the award at least twice.

Alaska point guard LA Tenorio came in second in the MVP race with 1,535 points, while San Miguel's Jay Washington finished third with 758.

Nino Manzo-Ludo, the No. 2 pick of the draft last August, captured the Rookie of the Year award, beating undrafted guard Josh Urbiztondo and Rain or Shine's Jerry Codiñera.

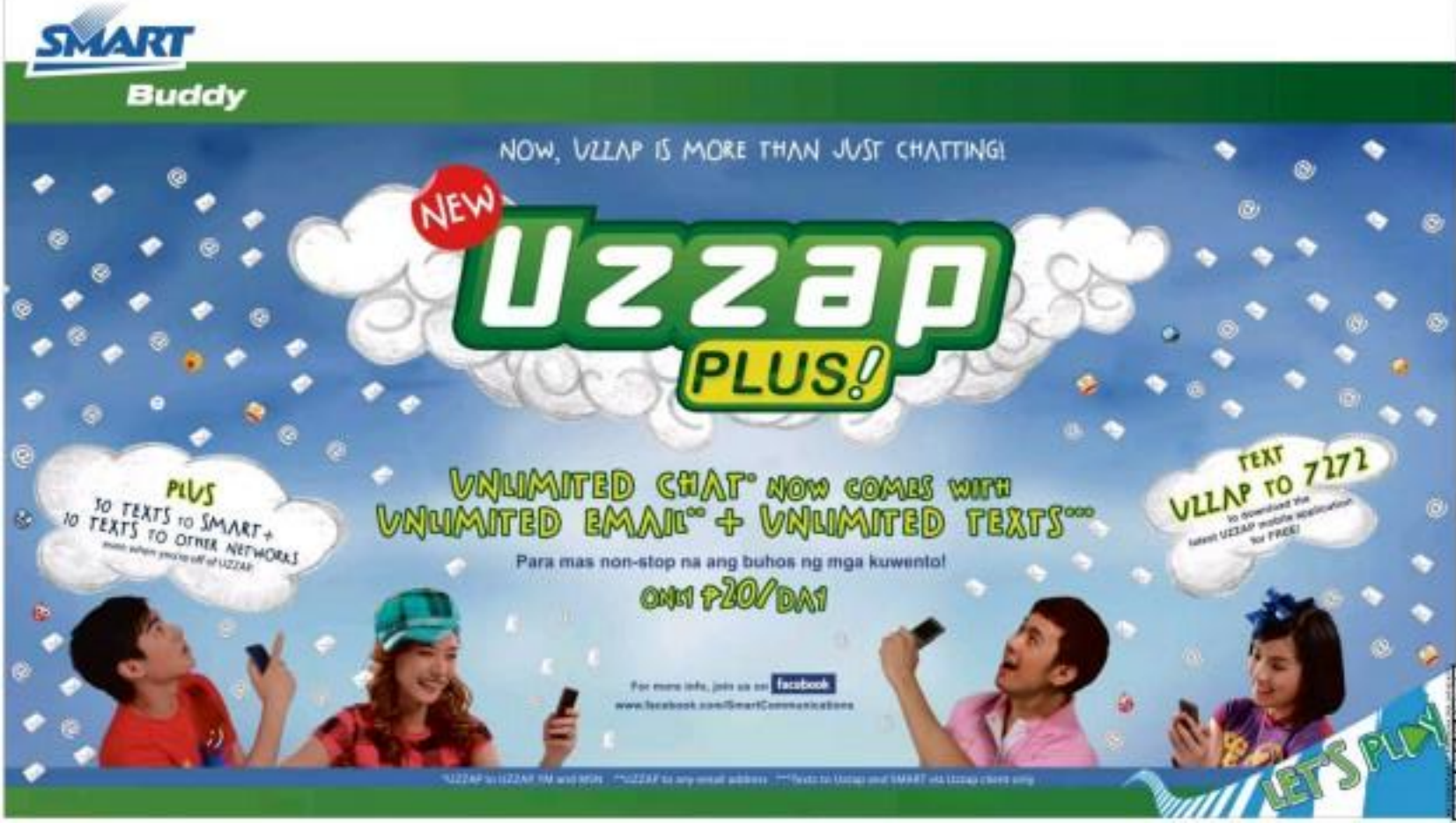
"I thank God for this award," said Yap, who won his first MVP award in 2006. He gave me the strength to perform well despite the storm in my personal life. It's probably the most emotional award, the sweetest victory in my career."

After powering Purefoods to the title in the All-Filipino Cup last March, where he was named Player of the Conference and Finals MVP, Yap continued his solid play despite his separation from wife television personality Kris Aquino, the younger sister of President Aquino, two months ago.

"When I'm on the court, I block off all my problems," said Yap, who averaged 18 points and three rebounds and over-assists this season.

Yap's name ranked as he dedicated the award to his son, Jamie Jr., whom he said he has not seen in weeks.

Yap, Tenorio and Washington led the mythical five years that also included San Miguel forward Arwind Santos and Alaska center Sonny Thoss.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DID YOU KNOW

ATOK 34 (1953) Memorial Medical Center in Manila, formerly North General Hospital, was named after Dr. Vicente Fabella, its chief who served from 1946 to 1964.
Cyrill C. Bonalbeck, Inquirer Research

Car theft gang leader's death probed

By Lolit B. Solaverio and Pilar Morales

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) has begun looking into the circumstances surrounding Ivan Padilla's death to determine if there were any human rights violations committed by the police who caught up with the suspected car theft gang leader following a shoot-out.

Lawyer Carmen Rosete of the CHR National Capital Region office said the agency would focus on, among other things, Padilla's death by asphyxiation listed on the autopsy result and the failure of the police to bring him to a hospital for treatment.

The police have insisted that Padilla died due to the gunshot wounds he sustained in the Aug. 2 shoot-out in Makati City.

"We will look at that angle, [particularly] why he died of asphyxiation," Rosete said in an interview.

She noted that the autopsy report would be the commission's final basis for determining the condition of Padilla's body at the time of his death because his remains had been cremated.

Request for copy of video

Rosete added that she had asked ABS-CBN to provide the commission with a copy of its footage of the car theft suspect sitting at the back of a police vehicle before he was brought to the hospital.

The television crew was able to interview Padilla after the shoot-out.

Rosete also said the CHR would talk to Padilla's family, his companion Hiyab Ardadi, who was with him at the time of the shoot-out, and the doctors who attended to the suspect at the Ospital ng Makati.

Padilla, 22, and the members of his group were the suspects in the theft of the vehicles of a Japanese citizen, former Ambassador Roberto Romulo and the father of actor Derek Ramsay.

Meanwhile, Director Leocadio Santiago Jr. insisted that members of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCPO) robbery/theft unit did not violate the rules of engagement during the Aug. 2 shoot-out.

In a phone interview, the NCPO chief said he expected the Internal Affairs Service (IAS) of the Philippine National Police and CHR to finish their investigation into Padilla's death within a month.

No media at crime scene

Santiago said that if his men did anything wrong, it was to allow a television crew to enter the crime scene, which, he stressed, should have been closed to civilians to preserve "the integrity of the area."

He added that only items of the Crime Operations and other police officers should be allowed at a crime scene.

"One of the officers [involved in] the operation was [an exciter] about [their] accomplishment—that I think he remembered to get about police procedures," Santiago said.

"That was a misjudgment on their part—allowing a camera man to enter the [crime] scene," he added.

As for the records of his personnel, Santiago told The Inquirer that his men, particularly the stolen theft unit led by Supt. Marinelo Maralit, were confident that they would be cleared of the allegations against them.

"They are okay and their records is not low," he said. "They just did their jobs and it's normal for them to be lead by the allegations."

As for a forensic expert's claim that Padilla died of asphyxiation, Santiago said: "I would not know about that. I am not a forensic expert."

Atienza poll protest gets moving; ₱10M deposit required

By Philip C. Tubeza and DJ Yap

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) en banc ruled the Still willing in the election protest filed by losing Manila mayoralty candidate Alfredo S. Lim against Mayor Alfredo Lim by issuing a preliminary conference order requiring Atienza to pay a cash deposit of almost ₱10 million to start the recount of the votes cast in the last Manila mayoralty race.

"Maybe in the next few days, after the settlement of the ballot boxes, we will have another hearing to decide on the other procedures for the protest case," said Comelec Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal.

Atienza earlier asked the poll body for a recount of the votes cast in all of Manila's 1,041 clustered precincts which had one ballot box each. He also urged Comelec to nullify Lim's proclamation.

Lim, who ran for a second term, received 389,358 votes against 383,094 for Atienza.

Larrazabal said the Comelec had yet to finalize the computation of the deposit to be made by Atienza for his electoral protest, but added that it could be almost ₱10 million.

"If the protestant believes the law is too much, then he can file a petition with the en banc for us to review it," Larrazabal said.

"The amount was based on the ₱5,000 for pre-protest established and approved by the en banc. I understand that was the same as before," he said.

"So, election protest is not a joke. You will spend money because you will have to use machines to scan the ballots," the poll official added.

However, Larrazabal said he expected the Atienza election protest would be resolved faster compared to election protests in the past that took years to finish.

"The resolution should be faster. We had host electronic adjudication for protest cases should also be fast, but I don't want to give a deadline," he said.

Of the hundreds of electoral protest cases pending at the Comelec, Larrazabal said the Atienza-Lim case was the first to move for a revision of votes under the new rules for electoral protests.

The revision of votes calls for a careful manual appreciation of every ballot cast to weed out invalid votes. At the end of the process, the votes are counted again. The results set Hans used to override Comelec's precinct tallies.

Under the new protest rules, the paper evidence will be augmented by digital evidence.

Larrazabal said the digital images of the ballots would also be analyzed and compared with the paper ballots.

On Wednesday, Atienza said he was prepared to pay the said fee at the same time, he unveiled what he described as the "very predictable" lies set by the Comelec for the protest.

He said the Comelec's computation for the cost of ballot box on the basis of "established protocols" and not on the number of clustered precincts.

Atienza added that the poll body had not taken into account the fact that the 6,455 established precincts in Manila had been clustered into 1,041 precincts, which should have been the figure used to compute the fees.

11 hurt in brief clash in QC

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ELEVEN persons were hurt, including a policeman and three media men, when a demolition team tore down the shanties built on a privately-owned lot at the corner of Broadway Avenue and 7th Street in Barangay Mariana, Quezon City yesterday morning.

Supt. Edgardo Francisco, Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Station 13 commander, said the 11 sustained minor injuries when some residents in the area threw a pillbox at the demolition team.

Francisco said the demolition was implemented based on a court order issued by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 97 Judge Bernadino Pernes Jr.

"We were there to implement peace and order and assist the sheriff's office," Francisco said.

He added that court sheriff Ferdinand Lobo arrived in the area at around 10 a.m. to implement the demolition order. While the team arrived there 58

(TURN TO A22)

PHILIPPINE PROVINCIAL ROAD MANAGEMENT FACILITY

Invitation to Bid for

Provision of ICT/QIS Infrastructure for DILG and Seven (7) PRMF Partner Provinces

1. Coffey International Development Pty Ltd (Coffey Int), a consulting firm engaged by the Australian Agency for International Development as the Fiduciary Managing Contractor for the Philippines Provincial Roads Management Facility (PRMF), invites bidders for the provision of ICT/QIS infrastructure for DILG and seven (7) PRMF Partner Provinces, namely: Guimaras, Iloilo, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, and Misamis Occidental. Supply, delivery and installation of Goods are required based on the schedule as defined in the bidding documents.

2. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the relevant procedures for an open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", with some amendments/exceptions, as stated in these Bidding Documents. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. Bidding is open to all firms, whether local or foreign, subject to conditions for eligibility as contained in the Bidding Documents. In particular, the instructions to Bidders.

3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PRMF Project Office located at the 19th Floor, Salcedo Towers, 169 HV dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, 1227 Philippines and inspect the Bidding Documents from 12 to 27 August 2010 during work days from 8:30AM to 5:00PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 12 to 27 August 2010 at the above mentioned address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of fifteen Thousand Pesos (PhP15,000). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the PRMF – www.prmf.org.ph, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the date of submission of their bids.

4. Coffey Int will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 26 August 2010, 10:00AM, at the Conference Room of the abovementioned PRMF Office, which shall be open only to interested parties that purchased the bidding documents.

5. Bids must be delivered to the same address above on or before 10:00 AM, 31 August 2010. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18. Bids will be opened at 10:00 AM of the same day at the same address in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

6. Coffey Int reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

7. For further information, you may contact:

MR. SIEGFRIED BATUIGAS
Infra IT Specialist
PRMF Project Office
19th Flr. Salcedo Towers
169 HV dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village
Makati City, 1227 Philippines
Tel No. +63 2 753 1161
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Police official loses big at casino

THE NEW CHAIR of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), Bong Nograles, donned public eagerness over the possible sale of the government-owned gaming firm to private individuals.

Lt. Miguel Corp. (IMC) vice chair and CEO Ramon S. Ang has said he was interested in buying Pagcor and he would have Malaysian billionaires to join him.

"They're not even (gaming) industry players," said Nograles, referring to Robert Kuok, owner of the Shangrila hotels chain; Stanley Ho, owner of Macau's Lisboa casino; and Francis Yeoh.

Yeoh's spokesperson in Manila, Joy Maceren, said the Malaysian tycoon was not interested in Pagcor since Yeoh was never involved in the gaming business.

There could have been a miscommunication between Maceren and her boss.

What Ang said was that he could convince Yeoh and the two other Malaysians to even to buy off Pagcor.

* * *

This is the issue: Are there individuals in the private sector interested in buying the government-owned gaming firm, not if Pagcor is saleable.

The government has been thinking of privatizing Pagcor, and Ang says he is interested and some Malaysian "big boys" might join him.

The important thing is that President has also expressed interest in Ang's proposal. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile is also supporting Ang's proposal.

People are not interested in Nograles' discussion of Ang's proposed since he would probably lose his job if the sale pushed through.

So, whatever Nograles says about the proposed sale can be considered as indulging in sour-grapes.

* * *

ON TARGET

Ang, who has investments in IBSE Tech, a beer manufacturing firm into a huge conglomerate, paints a rosy picture for the economy once Pagcor is sold by the government for P10 billion.

He says proceeds of the sale would pay off part of our foreign debt and make the country a "tiger economy."

Ang's genius in economics is proven by his hugely successful management of IMC.

* * *

A police superintendent, threatened colonel in the Army) who is assigned at the Mid-tenant Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) plays every night at the Marriott's Casino in Pasay City.

This police colonel reportedly loses as much as P500,000.

His excuse for his nightly presence at the Marriott's Casino is that his wife is a Filipino-American who gives loans to gamblers at loan-shark interests.

Even if he's not playing, it's still illegal for him to be there since it's moonlighting.

Financial analyst gets life term for drug possession

By Alexis Pupa

THE financial analyst will have to do his numbers in jail.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said on Wednesday that Gideon Gwadis Sender was handed a life sentence by Judge Dilda L. Cale of Mandaluyong City Regional Trial Court Branch 214 for violating Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, for possession of shabu and drug paraphernalia.

PDEA Director General Segfrey Ludovico Dumlao Santiago said Sender was arrested on Feb. 4, 2008 at the Pioneer Condominium in Mandaluyong City by intensive agents from the PDEA's joint of shabu and drug paraphernalia inside his condominium unit.

In his decision, Judge Cale said he did not believe Sender's defense that he had no intention to sell the drugs and that the drugs were planted by operatives. Cale called the latter "common and standard defense ploys."

"Although it was established that he (Sender) had no intention of selling shabu found in his possession, the intent to sell in this case is not an essential element. The mere fact that more than 50 grams of shabu was found in his possession, shows he had already violated the law and he should be punished for that," Santiago said.

The PDEA chief also renewed his warning to those who kept part of a run-on-some shipment dumped in the waters of Batanes last December. Only around 500 kilos of the shipment have been recovered, mostly from fishermen in the Itanan and Leyte area.

Tempers flare at Makati Comelec office

By Mike Plaridel

TEMPERS flared at the Commission on Elections office in Makati City yesterday after the computers used for the registration of voters broke down in the morning, leaving people standing in line for hours.

"I've been here since Tuesday but I was told to come back today because they could not handle the volume of people there," Perseria Cudal, 53, said in Filipino.

She added that she came in at around 8 a.m. but the registration did not start on time "because the computers were not working, so waiting in the Comelec staff."

"It's really hard to be because the (computers) keep on bogging down," said Jerica Lumagang, 20.

By the time the computers were repaired at 2 p.m., the people applying for voter registration had spilled over to the narrow corridors of the Comelec office.

Rodolfo Mendoza, 43, nodded in agreement as his companions complained about standing in line for hours while waiting for their names to be called.

PEOPLE applying for voter registration fill out forms in the hallway of the Makati Comelec office. Jonas Sarmiento

There were also others who said that they had yet to eat lunch because they didn't want to give up their spot in the line.

Cudal said they were informed that the machine that was being used for the registration was not operating and that the Comelec staff had sought assistance from the main office in Intramuros.

But some came and the exclusive lines from the Comelec main office failed to arrive.

As a result, it took two more hours before the computers were up and running. But by then, the crowd that had gathered at the Comelec office was too big for the staff to accommodate.

Only 18 days are allotted for the registration of voters for the May 10 election in October. The last day is on Friday.

"They should have designated a technician to each district office so that repairs would be done immediately," Erlinda Sioson, 39, pointed out.

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ALAMINOS
Province of Pangasinan

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Alaminos, Pangasinan through its duly constituted Committee (BAC) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF REMEDIAL LEARNING MATERIALS FOR THE SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS OF ALAMINOS CITY, PANGASINAN under the following minimum requirements and corresponding approved budget.

Qty	Unit	Item Description	Approved Budget for Contract
20,000 for Set 1 20,000 Set 2	Kilos Kilos	Grade 6 Math Project Components: 1. Uplift the socio-economic condition and sustain the stability of goods needed for the project 2. Local farmers to provide the needed supplies 3. Products must be delivered on the day that will be mentioned later. Delivery schedule will be furnished by the City Health Office after the Notice of Award	
		Inclusive of Delivery Cost and VAT	
		Total	Php 5,01,240.00

Note reserved to reserve of minority contract automatically rejected at the Bid Opening.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested suppliers with at least sixty percent (60%) Philippine nationality/ownership shareholding in the entity in the Philippines as specified by Republic Act 7520 (R.A. 7520). Only duly licensed Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be allowed to bid. Bidders must submit a valid Mayor's Permit to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat. If the Bidder is not the City Government Bid is the short-listed entity in the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the compliance of the bid and the Bidder's compliance of the project. Prospective (?) are responsible to their representatives to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat. Bidders should not be allowed to use the breakdown posted in accordance with GPPB Circular No. 04-2005. The contract shall be awarded for the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid for a total amount of Php 5,01,240.00 inclusive of VAT/Contribution, or after the showing of less in case of tie.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat City Procurement, inspect bidding documents, and purchase the bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)** at the Office of the City Treasurer, City Hall Building, Alaminos City, Pangasinan starting **August 12, September 3, 2010.**

The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

Bids and bidding supplements must be delivered to the above mentioned address on or before **September 3, 2010 at 10:00 AM.** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank acceptable to the Government of the Philippines (GOP) in the amount not less than the amount provided hereinafter.

BID SECURITY	BIDDING AMOUNT (IF 1% OR LESS TO BE GIVEN)
A. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	Twenty percent (20%)
B. Bank Guarantee	Twenty percent (20%)
C. Surety Bond	Five percent (5%)

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance and Availability of Bidding Documents	August 12 – September 3, 2010 - Bids & Awards Committee, City Hall Office, 2nd Fl. City Hall Bldg., Alaminos City, Pangasinan
2. Last Submission and Receipt of Bids	September 3, 2010 @ 10:00 AM Bid Conference Room, Second Floor, City Hall Building, Alaminos City, Pangasinan
3. Opening of Bids	September 3, 2010 @ 10:00 AM Conference Room, Second Floor, City Hall Building, Alaminos City, Pangasinan

The City Government of Alaminos, Pangasinan reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the Bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **HON. ROMUALDO ROSE**
BAC Chairman

(PNA August 12, 2010)

11 hurt

From page A11

members of a drama-fiction team and 80 policemen.

At least 200 fans, fans were affected by the demolition.

Hamilton said a brief clash erupted at around 11 a.m., when residents started throwing rocks at the police and demolition team, prompting the police to move in.

The police said they later found five more pillboxes in the area.

METRO BRIEFS

Drive vs drugs stepped up

THE CHIEF of the Caloocan Police District has ordered his men to intensify their antidrug campaign in various schools in Pasay City after a 12-year-old high school student was caught selling marijuana to her classmates on the school grounds on Monday.

A follow-up operation led to the arrest of two people believed to be conspirators in the drug-dealings, Chief Supt. Francisco Villaruz, CPD director, said he had ordered the anti-illegal drugs unit to closely watch elementary and secondary schools in the city to prevent similar incidents. On Monday, a teacher of San Joaquin Kalawaan High School caught a 12-year-old student selling 1 capsule of marijuana leaves to her classmates. Senior Insp. Dennes Bautil, DPD antidrug unit, said the school principal was alarmed and immediately reported the incident to the police and to the student's parents.

Aaliyah Gallaga

Hopes dim for China flood victims

ZHOUQU, China—Heavy rains on Wednesday lashed a remote section of northwestern China where rainand flooding killed at least 702 people, as hopes of finding more survivors faded and crews worked to stave off outbreaks of illness.

More than 1,000 people were still listed as missing in the disaster, with mud, stones and debris covering many houses.

With the chances of finding more survivors falling by the hour, troops and rescue teams joined by traumatized survivors turned to excavating bodies and sorting to the needs of the living. Clean drinking water was a primary concern, with rescue and aid sources destroyed or too polluted to use.

Rain was expected in given hours or in coming days, with up to 90 millimeters forecast for Friday, the National Meteorological Center reported. The amount of water loaded slides was "relatively large," it said.

Entire communities in Gansu province's Zhouqu district were washed up when the debris-choked Bailong River jumped its banks on Sunday, releasing more after wave of mud and rubble's intense water.

The torrential rains came as the driver music, one carting that left the city hills exposed and the roads, eating of cliff faces by a massive 2008 earthquake were seen as contributing factors.

A WOMAN embraces the lifeless body of her child, one of the hundreds who died in the devastating mudslides and floods in Gansu province. AFP

Buildings were torn from their foundations, their lower floors blown out by the force of the debris-laden waters. Three villages comprising hundreds of households were routinely buried and much of the county seat left submerged.

Crews using explosives and excavation vehicles rushed in drain an unstable lake on the Bailong upriver of Zhouqu, fearing more rain could cause a massive breach and bring more misery to the town.

Disinfectant crews to protective suits sprayed chemicals across the ground and over machinery the smell of death heavy in the air.

State media reported increased numbers of diarrhea, while infected injuries, a lack of sanitation, clean drinking water and accumulating garbage increased the risk of typhoid, cholera and other diseases.

Rescue crews have been largely reliant on hand tools, with heavy equipment either unable to traverse the roads or forced to travel in road up to several meters deep.

Roads reopened on Wednesday allowing heavy earth-moving equipment and supplies to flow in. AP

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional VIII, Tacloban City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
WAREHOUSING SERVICES FOR NFA CEBU
LEASE OF AN AREA OF 19,247.00 SQ.METERS
FOR GRAINS WAREHOUSE STORAGE SPACE

Location	Projected Tonnage to be Generated per Harvest Season	Approximate Area Required	Warehouse Area	Rental/sqm/ month	TOTAL RENT (Projected Amount Rental x Period)	Bidding Fee (Pesos)
Cebu	1,842.000	19,247.00	4,000 sqm Open Space 15,000 sqm	₱10.00	₱1,848,384.00	₱5,000.00

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE (Date/Time)
Issuance of Bidding Instructions	August 12 to August 26, 2010
Pre-Bidding Conference	August 27, 2010 @ 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	September 03, 2010 @ 10:00AM

Form of Security	Minimum Amount (in % of Bid Security)
Cash/Cashier's/Manager's Check/Bank Draft	Two Percent (2%)
Irrevocable Letter of Credit (issued by a commercial bank)	
Surety Bond (declared "callable on demand" issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the Insurance Commission)	Five Percent (5%)
Any combination of the foregoing	proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL MANAGER
Regional Director

Militants urge rejection of US aid

ISLAMABAD—Taliban militants have urged the Pakistan government to reject Western aid for victims of devastating floods, saying it would only be siphoned off by corrupt officials.

The call from the militants battling the government came as the United States stepped up aid for victims of the floods which have killed more than 1,600 people, forced 2 million from their homes and disrupted the lives of about 14 million people, or 8 percent of the population.

"We urge the government not to take Western aid," a Pakistani Taliban spokesperson, Azam Tariq, said by telephone from an undisclosed location.

"The government in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and the center are desperate to get it, not for the people affected but to make their bank accounts bigger," he said, referring to the northwestern province hardest hit by the floods.

Swelling floods triggered by torrentially heavy monsoon rain have scoured the Indus river basin leaving a trail of destruction from mountains in the north to the plains of Sindh province in the south.

Hundreds of roads and bridges have been destroyed and crops have been set ruined in the south, meaning the situation could get worse in Pakistan, a UN ally.

There is concern that Islamist militants with links to militant groups have been seeking to fill the gap left by what many see as the inadequate response by Pakistan authorities. Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

Huge ice island threatens shipping

STOCKHOLM—An island of ice more than four times the size of Manhattan is drifting across the Arctic Ocean after breaking off from a glacier in Greenland. Potentially the largest of the unstoppable giant ice islands to form during the shipping lanes—and any collision could do untold damage. In a world case scenario, large chunks could reach the heavily trafficked waters where another Greenland iceberg sank the Titanic in 1912. It's been a summer of new Arctic climatic havoc across the planet, with wildfires, heat and smog in Russia and killer floods in Asia. But the moment the Petermann glacier cracked last week—creating the biggest Arctic ice island in half a century—may symbolize a warming world like no other. AP

Superbug found in India, Pakistan, Britain

LONDON—People who embark on "health tourism" trips to India and Pakistan to get cheaper medical treatment risk picking up and spreading a new superbug, according to an international team of scientists. The researchers found a new gene called New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase, or NDM-1, in patients in Asia and in Britain. NDM-1 makes bacteria highly resistant to almost all antibiotics, including the most powerful class called carbapenems. With international travel for healthcare on the rise, the scientists said they feared this new superbug could soon spread around the world. Reuters

Ex-Alaska senator dies in plane crash

DILLINGHAM—An amphibious plane carrying former Republican Sen. Ted Stevens crashed into a remote mountainside during a fishing trip, killing Stevens and federal prosecutors said. Stevens and the eight other people in the aircraft were on a fishing trip where the flight experienced sudden fog and ran in a rugged section of southwestern Alaska. Three teenagers and their parents, including the former head of Nasa, were on the plane when it plowed into the mountain on Monday afternoon with so much force that it left a 30-meter gash on the slope, federal investigators said. AP

Colombia, Venezuela restore diplomatic ties

BARRANQUILLA—The leaders of Colombia and Venezuela have reestablished diplomatic relations, saying they are starting to repair confidence undermined by years of recriminations between the two countries. The announcement came after a four-hour meeting on Tuesday between Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Colombia's new leader, Juan Manuel Santos, who in his first days in office vowed last month to reopen to accusations that Venezuela has become a haven for Colombian rebels. AP

Red Cross urges N. Korea to free fishermen

SEOUL—South Korea's Red Cross pressed North Korea on Wednesday to release a boat and fourteen men crew seized off the east coast last weekend while Seoul was carrying out large-scale, anti-submarine naval drills. Relations between the two Koreas have been tense since the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship in late March that Seoul and the United States blame on North Korea. AP

French criminals now face short arm of law

PARIS—France has ended restrictions barring people under 1.6 meters (5 ft 3 in) from joining the police force. The country of Napoleon imposed minimum height requirements for police centuries ago, raising them over the decades as the average size of Frenchmen rose, but the rules have come to be seen as discriminatory. Reuters

Advice to job seekers: Drop the Merlot

DETROIT—Job applicants who drink alcohol are perceived as less intelligent and less likeable by dinner-time bosses, a team dubbed the "wasting-the-Merlot bias" in a study published on Monday. In a series of six related experiments, researchers from the University of Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania found that an association with alcohol caused observers to "impart cognitive impairment" on a job seeker. Reuters

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 827 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S
FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
ABELL PHILIPPINES, INC. UP Ayala Technohub Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City	Hiroshi Ishida/ Japanese	Equipment Technician
ACCOR ASIA PACIFIC MANAGEMENT INC. 7/F Tuk Yuebai Center Bldg., Tax Valero St., Salcedo Village,	Jeremie Paul Kohler/ French	Training Director
PROJECTS MANAGERS INC. 2/F Benitez Bldg., 76 Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Rajendra Jaiman Gupta/ British	Consultant
GUIDO G. RODRIGUEZ COMPANY Suite 2-A/F Rockwell Business Center, Sheridan St. Mandaluyong City	Rajesh Dalmia Bhandari/ Kuwaiti	Representative/ Representative
ABELL PHILIPPINES, INC. UP Ayala Technohub Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City	Hiroshi Ishida/ Japanese	Equipment Technician
ABELL PHILIPPINES, INC. UP Ayala Technohub Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City	Chiaki Takahashi/ Japanese	Construction Manager
ECOPARK SYSTEMS BAY RESOURCES, INC. - MANILA BRANCH Unit 601 National Life Insurance Bldg., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Anne Sabel Rivera Fontanilla/ Filipino	Finance Developer / Designer
ALPHA PHILIPPINES, INC. 3/F Unit 3-1 B, Ayala Condo, Tax Valero St., Salcedo Village,	Henry Kok Chi Wong/ British	Sr. Manager
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES, INC. Building 7, 3/F Alabang Corporate Office, 1880 Bay Blvd., Alabang-Zapote Road, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd.,	Bin Liu/ Chinese	Technical Support Representative/ Chinese Accent
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES, INC. Building 7, 3/F Alabang Corporate Office, 1880 Bay Blvd., Alabang-Zapote Road, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd.,	Ling Yuan Xu/ Chinese	Technical Support Representative/ Chinese Accent
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES, INC. Building 7, 3/F Alabang Corporate Office, 1880 Bay Blvd., Alabang-Zapote Road, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd.,	Chengyu Feng/ Chinese	Technical Support Representative/ Korean Accent
BRIDGE AND QUARTZ ALLIANCE CPO NEW LEARNING (MANILA), INC. 2/F Suite 2-B, 6F Cambridge Corporate Ctr.,	Arun Ravindranath/ Indian	Web Developer, Business and Administrative Analyst/ Business Consultant
ARTISTIC TRADING CO. 2/F Pedro Bldg., 4824 Juan Luna St., Cor. Antonio St., Binondo, Manila	Weibin Yang/ Chinese	Sales Manager
FAR EAST BANKNOTE PRINTING CO. (S) INC. Rm. 302, Far East Bank Bldg., 4829 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Hongjin Peng/ Chinese	Sales Manager
UNITED TECHNICAL CORP. OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINES Unit 1-A, 2/F Pacific Star Bldg., Cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Jung Ok Pil/ Korean	General Manager
MOTO FOR SMALL CARS SERVICE UP ACET, C. Arellano St., Cor. Dilliman, Quezon City, Philippines	Hiroshi Ishida/ Japanese	Manager
ACCOR ASIA PACIFIC MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES, INC. 7/F Tuk Yuebai Center Bldg., Tax Valero St., Salcedo Village,	Eric Schuster/ Canadian	Senior Quality Manager
COOPER INTERNATIONAL ASIA PTE. LTD. 4/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Alain Gaultier/ Gaby Frenchman	General Manager for Cooper Representative
NUMEN TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 2/F Wilcon Town, Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Brgy. Don Jose, Santa Rosa City, Laguna	Percy Wong/ Chinese	Product Manager
ACCENTURE, INC. NOA Bldg., 4/F Dela Rosa, Makati City	Sarath Nanjappanna/ Indian	SAP/CRM Senior Technical Manager
ACCENTURE, INC. NOA Bldg., 4/F Dela Rosa, Makati City	Qiman Jiang/ Qiaoyu Wang/ Chinese	Senior Manager/ Chinese Account Manager/ Chinese Language
CITYLINK PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 1/F East Asia Center, Ortigas Highway, Lim, Mandaluyong City	Ashish Nath/ Indian	Research Analyst
MITSUBISHI JAPAN, INC. 7/F Mercury Bldg., 1370 Ayala St., Cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Hiroaki Ogawa/ Japanese	Japanese Specialist
BUCKLEY TRADING CORPORATION Unit 1-A, 2/F West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Andrew J. Canadian	Operations Manager
BUCKLEY TRADING CORPORATION Unit 1-A, 2/F West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Steven Van/ Canadian	Assistant Operations Manager/ Entertainment Director
BUCKLEY TRADING CORPORATION Unit 1-A, 2/F West Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Jungmin Hong/ Korean	Marketing Manager/ Entertainment Director
EL KAPITAN CORPORATION Gaisano Bldg., Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Chaoliang Zhang/ Chinese	Executive Vice President of Research & Development/ Operations
JARDINE DEVELOPMENT CORP. 8/F Jardine Matheson House, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Thomas Lam/ Indian	Purchasing Officer
HANSEL ASIA TRADING CORP. 2/F Dr. Vicente Orestes Romualdez Bldg., Cor. Lopez Jaena St., Paco, Manila	Hemant Singh/ Indian	Sales Manager
HANSEL ASIA TRADING CORP. 2/F Dr. Vicente Orestes Romualdez Bldg., Cor. Lopez Jaena St., Paco, Manila	Hemant Singh/ Indian	Sales Manager
GLOBAL SUPPORT INC. 6/F Rockwell B Tower, Rockwell Center, Makati City	Mohammad Kazi/ Kazi Pakistani	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s, please communicate with the Regional Director.

DANILO G. AGUILAR
Regional Director

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

Fires raise radiation fears

MOSCOW—Russian emergency workers have increased forest patrols in a western region affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, trying to prevent wildfires that could potentially spread harmful radiation, officials said on Wednesday.

The Emergency Situations Ministry's branch in the western Bryansk region—the area of Russia that suffered worst from the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe in what was then Soviet Ukraine—had opened several wildfires in the area over the past few days and quickly extinguished all of them.

The ministry's spokesperson, Irina Sgarovskikh, said radiation levels remained normal in the region that bordered Belarus and Ukraine.

Large swaths of land were contaminated in the Bryansk region when Reactor No. 4 exploded during a predawn test on April 26, 1986, as the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, spewing radioactive clouds over much of the western Soviet Union and northern Europe.

Radioactive particles settled into the soil, and environmentalists have warned that they could be thrown up into the air by wildfires and carried to other areas by winds.

Russia's Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu acknowledged the danger, even as officials insisted they were taking all precautions.

"We had several fires, but the situation here is not as difficult as in the areas around Moscow," Sgarovskikh told The Associated Press.

She said that a team of radiation experts from Moscow had conducted a thorough check of the area and concluded that there had been no increase in radiation levels.

Vladimir Bondarevich, the head of the forest protection service for the Bryansk region, said it had increased patrols around the forests, particularly in the southwest of the Bryansk region affected by the Chernobyl fallout.

"There is a danger, but we are controlling the situation," he told the AP.

Greenpeace and other environmental groups have said that if raised by fires, radioactive dust from the Chernobyl disaster would spread radiation that could be harmful, even though doses will likely be small. AP

PUTIN

Putin aids in putting out fires

MOSCOW—Prime Minister Vladimir Putin climbed into a firefighting plane and dumped water on two of the hundreds of wildfires ravaging through western Russia and crushing Moscow as a suffocating smog.

Putin has been a very visible leader in the battle against the fires, which have caused billions of dollars in damage and left thousands homeless in the past two weeks.

He has demanded that soldiers help overcrowded fire-fighting brigades and has walked through smoldering villages, consoling residents and promising them new homes by fall.

But with his once sky-high approval ratings dropping—and possibly gray morning that discontent could grow as the fires and a severe drought take their toll—Putin has no top. AP

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-005), as amended, the JBC will conduct a public interview at the Division Meeting Room, Ground Floor, New Supreme Court Building, of the following candidates for the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN** (vice Hon. Norberto Y. Geraldezo) and one additional candidate for the position in the Legal Education Board (LEB) representing the active bar practitioners:

14 September 2010 (Tuesday)
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
1. ALAMEDA, ELMO M.
2. ARELLANO, CLARO B.
3. CADIAMOS, VICTORIANO B.

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
1. DAGMOKAN, YOLANDA U.
2. DIMAGIBA, HENRY B.
3. EUGENIO, ANTONIO JR. M.

15 September 2010 (Wednesday)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
1. DENILO, UTIN T.
2. GUTIERREZ, ALICE D.
3. ITURRALDE, PHILBERT I.

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
1. KALLOS, ROBERT E.
2. LAGDE, RAFAEL R.
3. LAUREA, EMMANUEL D.

21 September 2010 (Tuesday)
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
1. MANTARING, ANTONIO T.
2. NERI, GRACIANO JR. B.
3. ONGKIKO, DIVINAGRACIA B.

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
1. PIMENTEL, SILVINO JR. T.
2. SERRANO, ANDRES B.
3. TACLA, ESTEBAN JR. A.

22 September 2010 (Wednesday)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
1. VALENZUELA, ALBERTO CARLOS JR. E.
2. VELASQUEZ, GREGORIO M.
3. YAP, MARILYN L.

The following are also candidates for this position of Sandiganbayan Associate Justice but were already interviewed earlier this year:

1. ALARAS, SIGUAN P.
2. ALMARIEGA, REYNALDO A.
3. ANTIQUERA, HENRY B.
4. ARMAMENTO, LEAH T.
5. CORALDE, PEDRO B.
6. DE CASTRO, SEVERINO JR. B.
7. DELA CRUZ, EUGENIO C.
8. FERNANDEZ, BERNELITO R.
9. FRANCISCO, RENATO C.
10. GUERRERO, JUANITA T.
11. HERRERA, OSCAR JR. C.
12. MACARAIG, GERALDINE F.
13. PARADES, VICTORIA ISABEL A.
14. PIZON, ROMEO M.
15. QUIAMBAO, MA. ANGELICA P.
16. ROS, REYNALDO D.
17. SALVADORES, REYNALDO L.
18. SANTOS, MARIA MINA J.
19. TANG, AMPARO C.
20. VILLAROSA, JOSELITO C.
21. VILLASOR, JESUS EDWIN A.

The JBC likewise announces that the following are applicants for judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) (NCJR) MAKATI CITY (Br.145): ABAD, Arlan P.; ALTAREJOS, Mahno B.; AMPUAN, Alfredo D.; BASUIL, Calvin O.; BANDONG, Dinah Evangeline B.; BAUN, Ma. Susana T.; BUENAVENTURA, Rolando P.; CALPATURA, Cecilia B.; CAPELLAN, Mario B.; CASTRO, Rosie M.; CATALAN, Evangelyn D.; CEBALLO, Erwino G.; CESQUERA, Maria Cheryl L.; **CONCEPCION**, Victor O.; DIAZ, Augusto C.; DUMLAO, Lolita C.; **DARONG**, Rissa M.; GUTIERREZ, Alice C.; HIDALGO, Georgino D.; IGNALAGA, Ma. Consejo G.; ITURRALDE, Philbert I.; JACINTO, Jose Jr. S.; LARON, Henry E.; **LESASPI**, Emilio Rodolfo III Y.; LUCASAN, Joel A.; MALAGAR, Mario M.; MANGROBANG, Catherine P.; MAYNIGO, Wilfredo L.; MIRASOL, Rachael Dalisay M.; MORENO, Ronald S.; NAVARRO, Ma. Cleona P.; NOLASCO, Ma. Margarita G.; QUITAIN, Eutiquio L.; REYES, Ma. Rowena P.; SISCAR, Josefina G.; SOLIMAN, Manuel G.; **SORIA**, Josefina A.; SAN, Rosanna Nieves A.; TECSON, Lisa Marie P.; TIMOLA, Wilfredo V.; **UY**, Enrique L.; VILLANUEVA, Daniel C.; VITO-CRUZ, Josephine A.; **YSON**, Ma. Paz B.; ZUNIGA, Marietta H. **VALENZUELA CITY (Br.75):** ACUÑA, Severina B.; **ADRIATA**, Gonita G.; **ALTAREJOS**, Mahno B.; **APOLO**, Raymunda C.; **ARCHETA**, Emberto A.; BACLIG, Gil B.; BACSLO, Ma. Florencia P.; **BAGABDAN**, Josephine C.; **BAYARI**, Jenny Edmund G.; **BUSTAMANTE**, Manuel K.; CASTILLO, Porfirio Jr. C.; CERVANTES, Ma. Theresa Gracia L.; **CRUZ**, Pura Ferrer B.; DELA MERCED, Liberato R.; Sanchez; DE GUZMAN, Hermogenes S.; DIZON, Rodolfo B.; **FAJARDO**, Jacinto S. G.; GALANIDO, Pablo Jr. A.; GALANO, Rochelle Yvette G.; GEPTY, Lilia Mercedes Encarnacion A.; GLOTON, Manuel A.; HERNANDEZ, Noriam Sussot S.; IDAP, Marie Grace J.; IBUYAN, Hilda P.; **JUBILO**, Raquel M.; **JUMAMOY**, Ma. Cristina G.; **JURADO**, Alessandra D.; LIGAM, Ma. Belen R.; MANTILLA, Ronaldo D.; MARCOS, Dante Angel C.; MAYO-DIZ, Wilfredo L.; NOLASCO, Ma. Margarita G.; **OBEJAS**, Rosalito DS.; **PANTAOLEAS**, George Anto D.; PAZ, Noel B.; **PADUA**, Liberato R.; **SANCHEZ**, Francisco IBA.; **SIMON**, Luis F.; SOTTO, Lucenac.; **TELERON**, Rodrelio G.; VELASQUEZ, Gregorio M.; **YSON**, Ma. Paz B.; **QUEZON CITY (Brs. 86 & 92):** HIDALGO, Georgina D. **(RB9/DN 33) KABACAN, NORTH COTABATO (Br.61):** BETOYA, Alandrino M.; GELADIO, Harry M.; LAMPASA, Cesar T.; **FAHIM**, Hamiri; **PRUDENCIADO**, Mary Christine Gonzaga II.; **ROBLING**, Francisco III P.; **SAVADI**, Cynthia G.

METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT (MTC) (NCJR) VALENZUELA CITY (Br. 81): ABIGUELAS, Rodel V.; AGUSTIN, Reggie N.; ALGALA, Carlo Martin R.; ARIOLA, Allan B.; AZUCENA, Rodolfo Jr. P.; BALAGAT-FELICEN, Avelen N.; BATARA, Jenny Edmund G.; CALDONIA, Mary Georgina P.; CASTAÑEDA, Arnold Reynold S.; CRUZ, Lucila E.; DABALOS, Jose M.; DAMIAN, Noel Ramos C.; DE LOS REYES, Evelyn T.; DIESTA, Portia F.; ELEFANTE, Mary Kaeryn C.; ESGUERRA, Carolina G.; GUERRERO, Ma. Christine P.; JAVIERSON, Ma. Christina G.; JURADO, Alessandra D.; LIM, Erlinda D.; LLABRES, Lady Rochelle S.; LOPENA, Joel Socrates S.; MAAT, Jocelyn SP.; MARTIN, Nelia DG.; MONTEDIO, Edwin B.; ONTALAM, Orven K.; ORETA, Mario Antonello G.; PANTANOSAS, George Anto D.; PEJAD, Noorodin C.; PILARES, Teresa S.; RAZA, Liberato R.; RODRIGUEZ, Teresita E.; SABA, Marissa G.; SAGARIS, Snooky Maria B.; SALCEDO, Noli L.; SALMICIDIN, Jesus G.; SORIANO, Arlyn C.; TAN, Deborah Marie G.; **TELERON**, Rodrelio G.; **VILLENA**, Vivian L.; **VISTA**, Ma. Socorro S.; **ZARAGOSA**, Ramon P.

The public may submit sworn complaint, report, or opposition in ten legible copies with supporting annex(es) against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than **23 AUGUST 2010** (Monday) to the JBC.

All applicants for judicial positions must submit to the JBC-ISAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1 (Revised September 2007), proof of age and Filipino citizenship, and 2010 Omnibus Bar, SET, CBC and Police Clearances, Medical Certificate, and other requirements before the date of their interview. Those who fail to submit the necessary requirements shall neither be interviewed nor considered for nomination.

10 August 2010.

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

PDI-August 12, 2010

Philippine Daily Inquirer TURBO

PETRON INTRODUCES NEW HIGH-PERFORMANCE, HIGH-TECHNOLOGY DIESEL

Petron Corporation marked another first as it recently launched its newest fuel product in the Petron Turbo Diesel. Petron Turbo Diesel is a technologically advanced automotive diesel with unique spin valve multi-functional additives resulting in improved engine performance for superior acceleration and performance, better fuel economy and reduced harmful exhaust emissions.

Petron Turbo Diesel also has iron-less engine cleaning action, a cetane booster and a fuel up-lifter to give additional performance benefits which include:

- Prevention of complete combustion for maximum power
- Cleaning of fuel injectors
- Reduction of ignition delay
- Improvement of cold start performance
- Protection against engine corrosion
- Reduction of engine noise

"Petron has always been at the forefront of product innovations aimed at giving the motoring public environment friendly fuels that provide more value for their money," Petron Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang said. "Using Petron Turbo Diesel is very beneficial since its special formulation cleans and enhances engine combustion. This translates to better fuel economy. More lower cost for the motoring public."

The company's new premium diesel is formulated for high-end vehicles such as those with Common Rail Direct Injection (CRDI) diesel engines as well as older diesel engine types for optimum performance.

Petron Turbo Diesel is now initially available in selected service stations namely Diamond-Batangas, Bel-Air, McKinley and LIM Ave.

Photo shows Talk 'N Text Group Head Perry E. Bayani (from row, right) turning over the Talk 'N Text-BASIDECO TODA arm band to BASIDECO TODA chairman Juanito Villanor (front row, left) as a symbol of the partnership. Also in the photo are the BASIDECO TODA members.

BASIDECO TODA BETS ON TALK 'N TEXT TICKETLOAD

Tricycle drivers from Barangay 176, Caloocan City have found an opportunity to earn extra income with the Talk 'N Text TicketLoad, a new variant of cellphone load in coupon form and in small denominations of P10, P15, and P30.

Talk 'N Text has partnered with the Bagong Silang Development Cooperative Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (BASIDECO TODA) in providing tricycle drivers an additional source of income, through the sale of TicketLoad and other Talk 'N Text offers. Selling TicketLoad – which is essentially airtime load in ticket form – will enable these tricycle drivers to sell load even while driving, and will allow their passengers to conveniently reload their phones even while traveling.

"We are very thankful to Talk 'N Text for giving the transport group attention and for partnering with BASIDECO in providing our drivers with an additional source of income. We can take advantage of this while continuing with our jobs, and it doesn't require big capital and extra effort. As a whole, this livelihood program is very beneficial to our cooperative and to our members' families," shared Juanito Villanor, BASIDECO Chairman.

BASIDECO TODA is the major TODA in Barangay 176, Caloocan City, the biggest barangay in the Philippines with 1.4M residents.

"Talk 'N Text believes that involvement is the key to good and participative community development. We are committed to continuously provide products and services that will not only add value to subscribers' money, but will also create opportunities that will enhance the lives of enterprising Filipinos, such as TicketLoad," shared Perry V. Bayani, Talk 'N Text Group Marketing Head.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Alliance H1 profit up 36% /B2
■ Dev't plan thrust still on jobs, infra work /B4

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

SMC offers $961-M flood control plan

Proposes reclamation, tollway projects as payment

By Dexter L. Lava

SAN MIGUEL CORP. is set to embark on a radical new project that, if successful, could mean the end of the periodic flooding that brings the streets of Metro Manila to a standstill several times each year.

According to SMC president Ramon S. Ang, the conglomerate was proposing a flood control project—costing at least P961 million... that would have the effect of improving overall economic productivity of the national capital region.

The SMC chief pointed out that the project would "save billions of pesos" worth of properties, equipment and production man-hours lost due to major flooding incidents that occur repeatedly during the rainy season.

"This will really be a big help to the country and our people," he said in an interview with the business community. "If there is no more flooding, there will be no more damage to property, less hours lost getting stuck in traffic, and we people unable to come to work or go home."

Under a build-operate-transfer proposal, SMC will put up three facilities to counter flooding in Metro Manila: the Laguna Interior Dike (LIDE) multi-use, a dam in Marikina River (RIO) multi-use, and a spillway in Pantabangan City (SPP) multi-use.

The stated objective of the proposal is to "avert another massive flooding that destroyed personal properties and wiped out livelihood and working capital of small and medium enterprises."

According to Ang, SMC would not earn anything from the flood control scheme. The conglomerate would instead recover its investment through the Laguna Lake reclamation project in Taguig City as well as an attached railway concession.

Given the restrictions on private entities owning reclaimed land, SMC may have to enter into a long-term partnership with government units regarding the lake like the local government of Taguig City or the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

Studies earlier prepared a 3,000-hectare reclamation of the lake—whose shoreline is

SMC B1

INDICATORS

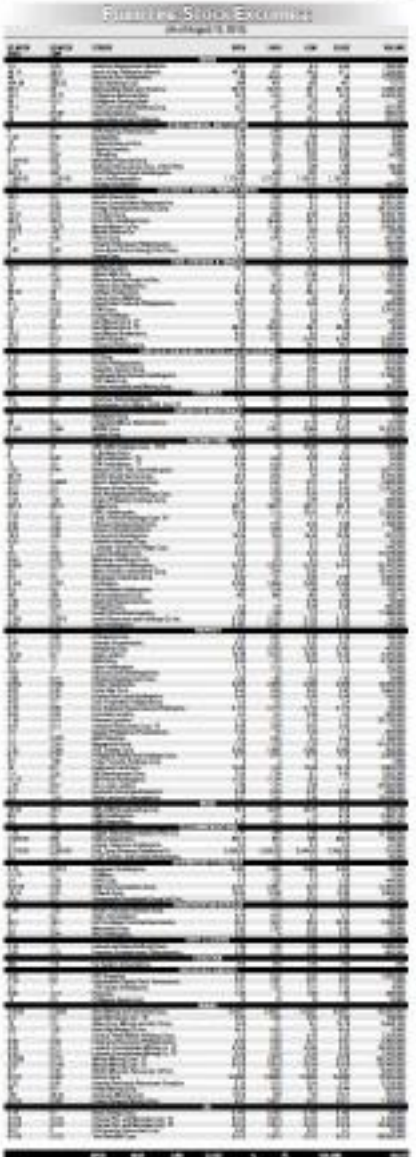
PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Aug. 11, 2016
45.235

STOCK MARKET
Aug. 11, 2016
0.09

Stocks end lower

LOCAL STOCKS ended back slightly yesterday as investors looked for clues from the recent market run-up to multi-year highs.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index lost 2 points or 0.09 percent to finish at 7,522.72.



Alliance H1 profit up 36%

By Doris C. Dantiao

TYCOON ANDRON Tan's alliance global Group Inc. posted a 36-percent year-on-year increase in its first semester net profit P4.83 billion on robust growth in real estate and consumer businesses.

Net income attributable to shareholders also rose by 41 percent to P3.419 billion over a year ago, ACI disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

"We are quite pleased that our results show strong revenue growth across all lines of business. Our results confirm that our strategy to focus on key industries and accelerate growth, particularly in the tourism industry is working," said ACI president Kingson Sian.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization in the first half of 2010 amounted to P6.3 billion, up by 21 percent year-on-year. Consolidated revenue rose by 22 percent to P21.26 billion over the same period.

Revenue growth was driven by ACI's real estate development arm, Megaworld Corp., which accounted for 46 percent of earnings during the period.

The consumer business, mainly liquor maker Emperador Distiller and Golden Arches Development Corp., contributed 44 percent of revenue.

Emperador Distillers produces leading brandy labels Emperador and Generoso.

Golden Arches is the master franchise holder of McDonald's in the Philippines.

ACI's fourth business leg, Travellers International Hotel Group Inc., contributed the range of P395 million.

Travellers International is the developer and operator of Resorts World Manila (RWM), the country's first integrated tourism resort in Newport City located across Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. It is a partnership between ACI and leading Hong Kong Limited (formerly named Star Cruises Limited of Hong Kong), the third largest cruise line operator in the world and is part of the Malaysian conglomerate Genting Berhad.

ICTSI to spend $600M for Latin American ports

By Paolo S. Montecillo

PORT OPERATOR International Container Terminal Services Inc. plans to spend $600 million over the next two years for the expansion of its projects in Argentina, Colombia and Mexico.

ICTSI said this would allow it to take advantage of the strong growth prospects in Latin America amidst the recovery in global trade from last year's crisis.

The better economic conditions for the year, chair Enrique Razon Jr. said, would help the company post much higher earnings this year than it did in 2009.

"The Q spend close to $600 million over the next two years," he said, speaking to reporters at the sidelines of the port developer's special stockholders' meeting on Wednesday.

ICTSI manages the Port of Buenaventura in Colombia, the Terpel en S.A. port in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Puerto Manzanillo in Mexico.

At the meeting, shareholders approved ICTSI's plan to convert 1 billion preferred shares into 909 million preferred A shares, with a par value of P1 each, and seven million preferred shares, with a par value of 1 centavo each.

SMC offers . . .

From page B1

present by occupied by informal settlers—but little progress has been made on the project.

The planned site of the SMC development is a shallow area that local residents use for planting vegetables and crops during summer when the lake's water levels recede.

Ang said that unlike the earlier proposal, SMC's version of the Laguna Lake reclamation deal would not include plans for an international airport. Instead, the bulk of the reclaimed land would be devoted to commercial purposes.

Should SMC's proposal be accepted and pursued over government objections, the project will be funded by a combination of equity and debt.

"Everything will be transparent and open for the public to see," Ang said. "We will propose that to the government, but if anyone can show better job in terms of price and technical specifications, we will be happy to let them do it."

Stocks end lower

From page B1

There were only 53 advancers as against 81 decliners and 35 unchanged stocks. Value turnover amounted to P4.5 billion.

The day's decline was supported by some handing up of shares of PLDT, First Holdings, GMCI and Ayala.

Overnight, the closely watched Dow Jones Industrial Index was down 54.5 points or 0.51 percent to 10,644.26. Doris C. Dantiao

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Southern Isabela General Hospital (SIGH), through its Bids and Awards Committee, invites Regional Prequalification Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following procurement activities:

Name of Project	Detailed Description / Particulars	Approved Budget	Bidding Documents
Completion of OPD Annex (Bldg. 2nd Floor – 1/2 Unit)	Medium A, Commercial Construction with Mechanical Installations in accordance with the Plans	PHP 10,000,000.00	PHP 10,000.00
Drainage Improvement Plan	Protection and infrastructure works and self-sustaining improvements to reduce flooding, mudslide and landslides	PHP 1,000,000.00	PHP 1,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects within the last three(3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the approved project by bidding. The eligibility shall be determined as well as preliminary examination of plans shall cover non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Eligibility forms shall be made available to Contractors shortlisted upon upon submission of letter of intent with attached PCAB license in the form stipulated in Section 23.1.2 (a) (ii) and (b) (ii) of the IRR of RA 9184 from August 12 to 25, 2010 and not later than 4:00 pm.

Upon the issuance of the shortlist, the contractors shall be given a period of ten (10) working days for the submission of their eligibility documents, which are as follows:

1. Duly accomplished Bid Bulletin Documentary Requirements for Eligibility Check
2. Detailed Estimate – August 25, 2010, 10:00 AM
3. Submission and Opening of Bids – September 2, 2010, 10:00 AM

All participating contractors to the Eligibility Statement and Accounting, Bid Security, Performance Security, Post-Bidding, Contract Implementation, Termination of Bids, Post-qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its IRR as amended.

The SIGH-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, declare the cancellation of the bidding and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the government, and waive any defect or irregularity in any proposal or to indemnify the bidder for any expenses it may have made in preparing their bid or be prejudiced of bids, and guarantee that no award shall be made.

(Sgd.) GERMAN G. MARAVILLA, MD
Chairperson, BAC
Southern Isabela General Hospital

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the contract for project:

Name of Project / Brief Description	Core Civil and Conservation and restoration of cabinets – the Museum of Money and Paintings and BSP Complex at Mati
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P1,450,000.00
Eligibility Check Period	Within one (1) year from date of Notice to Proceed (NTP) for Electricity, Electronic Alarm Office

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement services and completed from 10000 to present amounting to at least 50% of the ABC. The Eligibility Documents as set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) BAC shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Post-Bidding, Contract Implementation, Termination of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 12 August 2010 (from 8:00 A.M. to 1:30 P. M. only) Procurement Office Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Main Office, New Money Building 4, Malate corner T. Morato St. Streets, Manila, Manila Tel. No. 5708300 Fax No. 5708300
2.	Bid and Conference	24 September 2010, 10:00 A.M., MBOA
3.	Opening of Bids	24 September 2010, 2:00 P.M., MBOA
4.	Bid Evaluation	1 hour duration in accordance with the prescribed options allowed in the revised IRR of R.A. No. 9184
5.	Post-qualification	
6.	Notice of Award	

The TPS and Checklist of Requirements for Bidders may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BSP Website (www.bsp.gov.ph). The complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address named above upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00.

The BSP reserves its reasonable discretion to compromise or reasonably address for any apparent inconsistency in the preparation of bids.

The BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the bidding a failure, not to award the contract, to annul the bidding process and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders. Furthermore, the BSP reserves the right to waive any minor defect or formality and to accept the proposal most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) [illegible]
Chairman

BUSINESS

Dev't plan thrust still on jobs, infra work

Six-year MTPDP to address interests of 'those left behind'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NEW Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan that will replace the one expiring this year will continue to focus on job generation and increased investment in infrastructure to provide safety nets for those who barely benefit from the country's growth.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr. said the thrust of the development plan for 2011-2016 would be on inclusive growth.

"The plan will address the interests of those who are left behind. Local growth of the country's economy," said Paderanga, who is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority. "We need to make sure that the vulnerable sectors are provided for... In this sense, government spending in the following years will be aimed at stimulating continued growth."

Earlier this month, Paderanga said the Neda would push for this decentralized roadmap in the new MTPDP stressing the importance of inputs from regions outside Metro Manila.

He added that the Neda would spearhead the reorganization of the Regional Development Council (RDC) toward decentralized planning.

The country's 80 provinces are grouped into 17 administrative regions, including the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The MTPDP for 2004-2010 focused on the creation of two million new jobs, as well as creating three million micro-enterprises.

Paderanga said organizations in the RDC will come from various sectors, such as farmers and fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, youth, women, children, workers, vulnerable groups, academe and business.

"It is vital that regional line agencies coach their with their respective central offices to provide the regional breakdown of national targets until the location of strategic priority projects in the regions," he said.

RP lenders now more attractive to gov't

By Michelle V. Rarus

WITH THE country now sitting on a huge pile of dollar reserves, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas does no problem in the government plans to source more of its funding requirements from the domestic market.

"We [the Philippines] have a very healthy level of external liquidity. The plan to borrow more domestically would not hurt the GIR [gross international reserves] and would be very well accommodated," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

According to Tetangco, the country's GIR is being propped up by remittance data to reassurances from Filipinos based abroad and insolvently growing foreign direct and portfolio investments.

The country's GIR as of end-July stood at $46.8 billion, the BSP said in its latest report. The amount would be enough to cover nine months worth of the usual imports.

Based on international benchmarks, a country's GIR would be considered healthy if its foreign currency reserves could cover at least four months of imports.

The statement from the central bank chief came amid reports that the government intended to reduce its share of foreign-currency denominated loans to its overall debts.

The DOF said the government would borrow more to peso and less in dollars and other foreign currencies to reduce its exposure to foreign exchange risks.

National Treasurer Roberto Tan said that in 2011 the government would adopt a borrowing mix of 70-26 in favor of peso-denominated loans.

Alaska net ₱1.06B in H1, up 70%

LEADING MILK manufacturer Alaska Milk Corp. expanded its second quarter net profit by 25 percent year-on-year to P532 million on a combination of higher sales and subdued input costs.

This brought AMC's net income for the first half of the year to P1.06 billion, 70 percent higher than a year ago, AMC disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

Net sales grew by 6 percent in the second quarter to P8.92 billion on robust growth rates across core liquid and powdered milk products.

Sales volume of liquid canned milk products expanded as consumer demand for milk products accelerated at double-digit rates. Sales volume of the powdered milk business likewise sustained a healthy growth rate due to continuous brand-building activities. Similarly, sales volume of all-new heat treatment (UHT) products, ready-to-drink milk and ready-to-use products, remained brisk amid continuing efforts to widen the consumer base.

This brought net sales for the first half of the year to P5.03 billion, 9 percent higher than year-ago levels.

AMC also said that cost of sales and operating expenses for the second quarter grew at a slower pace of 1 percent year-on-year to P2.21 billion on account of stable raw material prices and continuing improvements in operating efficiencies.

— Jov C. Dantes

Security Bank net income rises 30%

SECURITY BANK Corp. yesterday said its first semester net income rose by 30 percent year-on-year to P1.9 billion.

The increase was consistent with the 22-percent compounded annual growth rate in its net income over the past five years, the bank said in a statement.

Its return on equity was placed at 19.4 percent, while return on assets was 2.6 percent.

In the first semester, the bank registered an 11-percent growth in revenue. Its interest margin improved 22 basis points to 4.5 percent. "Year-to-date operating expenses, excluding provision for credit and impairment losses, reached P3.1 billion, up by 6.6 percent, or P92.2 million, from the same period last year.

The bank's non-performing loans ratio was at 1.4 percent, with a corresponding NPL cover of 277 percent. Total capital adequacy ratio is at 18.4 percent.

To date, Security Bank's share price stood at P71 from P54 at the start of the year.

BPI on growth mode, scouting for acquisition targets

By Doris C. Dantes

AYALA LAND BANK of the Philippine Islands, the country's most valuable bank, plans to scale up business over the next five years by growing its loan portfolio while scouting for merger and acquisition deals.

BPI, which made its last acquisition in 2005 when it bought out the Asian family bank Prudential Bank, said it was now on a "growth" mode.

An ongoing P10-billion stock rights offering is part of the expansion strategy, bank president Aurelio Montinola III said in a briefing on the sidelines of the 2nd Corporate Treasury Summit held by FinanceAsia in Manila.

"In the past, we followed just-in-time capital raising. Maybe now, what we're doing is just-before-in-time capital raising," Montinola said, noting that the time was right to raise funds.

The additional capital, Montinola said, would give BPI the leeway to pursue "any interesting developments," such as the acquisition of a loan portfolio or another company.

"We look at the prospects. It's the start of a new decade. There's a lot of interest and there would be opportunities in many fields. There still be the possibility that certain names or groups or individuals will decide to concentrate on other areas and that other area is not banking, so there will be an opportunity for us," Montinola said.

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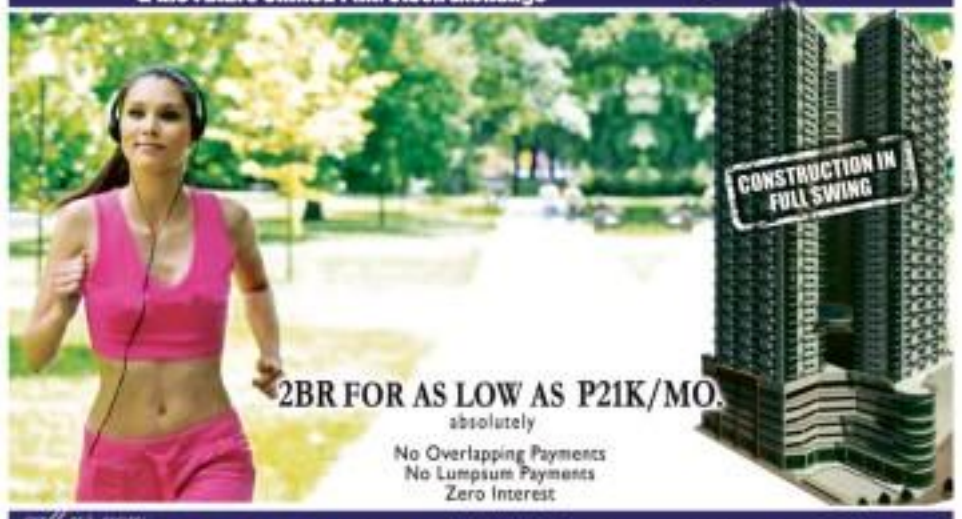

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LIFESTYLE Food

Maranao chicken dish, 'sinangag sa bawang at bagoong na isda' and other winning recipes

CONGRATULATIONS! 101 chefs (Gamboa, James Armilla, Buddy Trinidad and Fernando Ocampo) What a splendid job they did in the first Philippine Culinary Cup.

For the first time, some of the most prominent chefs from Asia and Australia graced the occasion, bringing years of experience as well as their seasoned palates.

Their presence challenged and inspired our competitors to push their creativity to the limit, to showcase their culinary mastery.

Each dish they prepared not only was excellent but was also definitely Filipino.

Reggie Aguilar

The Cup's highlight was the Filipino Cuisine Challenge and here are the winning recipes.

You cast my fettuc at home, including the winning pasta dish.

Lyceum of the Philippines' Chris Agas, Milton Nuqui and John Lalo Aspiet brought home the gold for the Filipino Cuisine Challenge.

Kinilaw na Tuna

450 g yellowfin tuna, sashimi-slice
120 ml white vinegar
30 g ginger, minced
50 g shallots, minced
30 g green finger chili, sliced
30 g red bell pepper, julienned
40 g red onion, julienned
120 ml lime vinegar
120 ml evaporated milk
Salt and pepper to taste

1. Wash tuna in white vinegar. Drain and set aside.

2. Mix ginger, shallots, green chili, bell pepper, onion, cane vinegar and evaporated milk. Season with salt and pepper.

3. Add drained tuna and marinate in the chilled.

4. Adjust seasoning. Serve with pineapple, tomato on the side.

Piyaren a Manok (Maranao Chicken Dish)

1 k chicken thigh, fillet
4 tbsp cooking oil
20 g garlic, minced
40 g turmeric root, minced

MANNAG G

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REP BOBO Gelo, president and CEO of Gawad Industrial Development Corp. Domingo "Boy Guevara, PWU president Alanlee Reyes, lawyer Miguel Varela, Summit Publishing Co., New York editor and president Victoria Navarro, and her husband, chair Nicholas Navarro

NUBE Evarra and Raoul Palabo

Coffee-table book showcases Philippine art and history

CARMELA Bonoan-Dy, PSAE Rainforest group director of sales and marketing; Cito Villanueva, Fairways & Bluewater director of sales and marketing; and Carmela Quiza, PSAE Rainforest corporate sales executive

ROSE Libunao-Sandejas and Dr. Adrian Benavidez

THE PHILIPPINES' husband-wife tandem of Nicholas and Victoria Mourot is of New York-based publishing group Summit Publishing Company have done it again, with the launch of their newest book—500-page coffee-table book "The Philippines" (impressions in Connecticut).

At a grand, glittering, can't-be-sympathetic dubbed in Joaquin Philippine Plaza—Ritarizon Hotel the Manila marketing director Bernard Romulo-Puno and CEO Bobo Gelo presided at **Willie Revillame**. Showing together Philippine history, art and community through the years, the awe-some book showcases the island and cultural artistry of the Philippines, the country's spectacular beauty, rich stunning photographs and fascinating information and history, anthropologists.

During the cocktail reception, spectacular performances by the Ambassadors of Light, a group composed of children age 7 to 14 who are "unsighted" but musically inclined, were so moving.

"Personally it is my hope that the Filipino readers after going through the pages of this book, will also find himself gaining a renewed sense of appreciation and passion for our country," said the brilliant and eye-catching Vernon.

While Rep. Bobo Gelo, Vernon's former classmate, said: "This is, indeed, a nice way of introducing the Philippines and the Filipinos to the rest of the world, particularly the young generation of Filipino who lack knowledge of and passion for the Philippines." Well said, palengke.

This coffee-table book, palengke, is simply awesome, as lawyer Dante Pisana said in the end. "Many Filipinos today lack commonalities. This book brings them back to the heart of the matter—by giving them all the reasons to fall in love with the Philippines all over again," Amen, lawyer.

Call Summit Publishing at 6328750 or 8917 3800/8815, e-mail summitpub@surfnet.com.

BOY GUEVARA, Victoria Mourot, Maxene Gomez with daughter Monica and husband, sculptor Dominador Jr. Gomez

KIMINO Maimoran, Dr. Elenita Binay Jacob, Yasmin Arroyo and James Rosas

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Antonio Arcache

Photos by Alex Tara Hagen powered by PHOTO MAAC course

HILLY Concepcion-Northcomm, Jovanna Dr. Elenita Binay and Nimot Lanzon

Dr. Binay luncheon

Makati's first lady and movers and lady of the county, well-loved Dr. Elenita Binay, was the honoree of a victory lunch get-together given by one of her close pals, Nene Lanzon. It was to celebrate the winning of her husband, Vice President Jojo over Binay during the last election, palengke.

The lunch lunch fest has time with social gossip and there chatty fundraising at the residence of Bonz Villar's Dasmarinas Cluby. Makati with the 12 attorney.

A great way to distill our regards at for the civic-minded women of society, dahlings.

KIMINO Maimoran, Mini Lanzon, Chit Salandi Bobo Jacob and Bibia Lhuillier

Wine appreciation evenings

DISCIPLES 101) gourmands can take a journey to argentina and Spain, as nine wines of these countries are highlighted in two events at Mandarin Oriental, Manila.

The Tivoli, Mandarin Oriental, Manila's signature fine dining restaurant, features the Bouquet wines of renowned Argentinian winery and Tuscan for a special dinner on Aug. 12, evening at 7 p.m.

Accompanying the elegance of these wines is a four-course menu prepared by executive chef Bruce Orella.

The first course, US beef and scallop carpaccio, truffle and rocket cherry mustard vinaigrette, amarone will with the apple, honey and cinnamon aroma of Bouquet Chardonnay 2006. The second course, the Lobster Ravioli, will truffle accompanies the complex, mature flavors of the Bouquet Pinot Noir 2007.

Chef Orella's main course of stuffed lamb chop, parsnips, artichoke and parsley jus, accompanies, is paired with the rich reflection of the Bouquet Cabernet Sauvignon 2007.

Bouquet Petit Verdot 2007 or Bouquet Malbec 2007. The evening event is capped off with traditional apple tart tatin with bourbon vanilla ice cream.

This wine-pairing dinner is at P2,200++, and is held with the support of Philippine Wine Merchants.

For a more casual setting, Mandarin Deli hosts its monthly Cellar Door nights on Aug. 13, beginning 7 p.m. Future Tivoli's Reinaker Tseng speaks about select wines from Miguel Torres Winery of Chile.

Diners can enjoy tasteful percentages of Viña Sol, Gran Viña Sol, Sangre de Toro and Gran Coronas while nibbling on a delightful spread of Spanish tapas.

This includes Jamon Serrano, DO Rioja Ibizuli, Salpicon with seasoned Spanish cold cuts and cheeses, Croquetas de Jamon Iberico Bellota, Boral, calamari, calamari con, Aperitivo, Jerez and cider vinegar; and Churros con chocolate, among others. The Cellar Door night is at P790 net.

Call 7568888.

MANDARIN Oriental, Manila hosts a tasting of Argentina and Spain

Final weekend of 'Master Class'

PHILIPPINE EPISTA Company stages the production of a Tony Award-winning play "Master Class," about the legendary opera diva Maria Callas played by Diana Ell. The new repertoire depicts the historical class conducted by Callas at the peak of her career for three young musicians during which she laments her long tumultuous life as an opera's grand diva and evaluates glimpses of her private life as perceived by the filmmaker Aristotle Onassis. Starring Philippine Cinema and theater's diva, Diana Ell as the character of Maria Callas. Award winning director Chris P. Rocasa is in charge of the production. RSVP Plaza, 639 Buendicho cor. San Jose Puyat Ave., Intramuros Village, Makati. On Aug. 12 it is at 8 p.m. and 14, 3:30 p.m. Tickets priced P1,545, P1,200, P1,000, P800 and P510. Call Ticketworld at 8919999.

Session on stress management

Brahma Kumaris Retreat Center for "Spiritual Learning will hold a session on stress management Tagaytay City on Aug. 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Buddhist Meditation Body Mandala, a meditation practitioner for more than 20 years and an experienced training and management facilitator. Call 5567981 or 3356003.

New literary works set for release

"Ulisa(2)009," a collection of 13 literary works by up and coming writers from the National Capital Region, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao is set to be unveiled on Aug. 12 at the Ateneo de Manila University, initiated by the National Committee on Literary Arts of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Most noteworthy in the literary festival of Ulisa 2009 are the three winning plays—Ang Pagbabalik ng Prinsesa Manalabas (The Return of the Princess Manalabas) by Jonathan Mendoza, Ang Pagbabalik ng Prinsesa Manalabas (The Return of the Princess Manalabas) by Jonathan Mendoza, Ang Pagbabalik ng Prinsesa Manalabas (The Return of the Princess Manalabas) by Jonathan Mendoza.

The anthology showcases the year's "Ulisa" winning works (Norma Bonesa and Aida Flores for fiction short story and poetry respectively; Christopher Mark Garcia and Ellie Godinez for Tagalog short fiction; Modino Rania and Francisco Arias Monteverde for Tagalog poetry; Jacinto Arcadio and Antonio Rodriguez for English poetry; Jo Perez for Magindanao short story; Lauralo Lopez, Pilot Ronald Baroc for Ilocano

Tomato-onion salad with 'bagoong' dressing

By Marisa Chikiamco
Contributor

IN THE ILOCANO Food Festival at Hotel InterContinental last year, chef Nikko Hidalgo of Bistro Candon brought home the special Ilok bagoong which he himself processed. To use the bagoong as dip for the bagnet, he squeezed fresh calamansi juice over it, turning its saltiness. It created the same bagnet sawsawan.

Lately, I've thought of another way to enhance bagoong—by adding raw just calamansi but also sugar, chilies and tomatoes. The result was a sauce-cum-salad dressing with just the right amount of saltiness, sweetness and piquancy.

It can be used as dip for fried fish, barbecued meat, crispy pata (or the bagnet), adobo, inihaw or simply mixed with rice.

TOMATO-ONION Salad with bagoong dressing

Another raw sauce for fried fish is one I call mock tartar sauce. Instead of mayonnaise, I use a mixture of sour cream and yogurt, with chopped pickles, onions and capers.

Tomato-onion salad with bagoong dressing is also good drizzled over grilled squid. It is also good drizzled over salad of chopped onions and tomatoes.

'Bagoong' dip and salad dressing

2 tbsp sugar
½ c Ilok bagoong (the liquid kind)
¼ c fresh calamansi juice
¼ c chopped scallion (tops) leaves
1-2 siling labuyo (bird's eye chili), diced
2 tbsp water

Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Pour about ½ of the mixture over tomato-onion salad and use the rest as dip for fish, barbecued meat, adobo or crispy pata. Store any leftover mixture in a tightly covered container in the refrigerator and use as needed.

Tomato-Onion Salad

4 medium tomatoes, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
½ c chopped scallion (tops)

Toss all salad ingredients together. Drizzle just enough of the prepared bagoong dressing to flavor the salad.

Tips

- For best results, use good quality Ilok bagoong. Do not use shrimp bagoong as this recipe requires a liquid type of bagoong.
- After dicing the siling labuyo, wash your hands very well. The oil from the oil can cause the skin to burn. Avoid touching your face and eyes.
- Other add-ons to the tomato-onion salad: chopped red eggs, diced green mangoes, sliced boiled potatoes and diced cucumbers.

Popular peanut sauce, barbecue marinade now for takeout

BUTE BARBECUE recently launched a new line of sauces, called "Pinoli's"—named after the chain's founder-CEO, Feniek Reyes.

The Pinoli's line of sauces includes the chain's famous Peanut Sauce, Barbecue Marinade and Atsuete, as well as new ones like Hot-Piri-Piri Sauce and Teriyaki Sauce. These are two spicy sauce variants—Spicy Peanut Sauce and Spicy Piri-Piri Sauce.

"By buying our marinade, atsuete and sauces, our customers can enjoy our products even in the comfort of their homes, or when they go out of town. I am also very happy to say that our sauces are being bought by our Ambassadors and our OFWs in Hong Kong with them, so they can have a taste of home when they are abroad," said Reyes.

After taking a special course on "Soup, Stocks and Sauces" at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, he created a research and development unit for Reyes Barbecue, specifically to formulate new sauce products.

Pinoli's sauces are exclusively sold at Reyes Barbecue chain of stores. Pica-Pica Sauce and Spicy Pica-Pica Sauce are P65 each; Atchara, Peanut Sauce, Spicy Peanut Sauce and Barbeque Marinade are P75 each. Teriyaki Sauce is P130.

There are close to 70 Reyes Barbecue stores today conveniently located in numerous malls and commercial centers across Metro Manila and Luzon.

E-mail: franksreyes@yahoo.com, reyesbarbecue@gmail.com, tel. 09157684806, 7232040, 7232161.

Marunao chicken dish . . .

From page C2

- 20 g ginger, minced
- 150 g lemongrass, sliced
- 60 g onion, white
- 5 pcs laurel leaves
- 5 pcs star anise
- 1 tbsp black peppercorn
- 60 ml soy sauce
- 60 ml vinegar
- 250 ml coconut cream
- 120 ml water
- 5 pcs green chili
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Crackle the star anise, laurel, peppercorn in hot cooking oil.

2. Add garlic, turmeric, ginger, lemongrass and white onion; sauté until aromatic.

3. Add chicken fillet, soy sauce, coconut cream and water; bring to a boil then cover and simmer until chicken is cooked.

4. Add chili and adjust seasoning.

5. Serve with fried ginger.

Sinuyong sa Bancang at Bagoong na Isda

- 4 tbsp cooking oil
- 60 g white onion, diced small
- 40 g garlic, minced
- 10 g ginger, minced
- 80 g tomato, diced small
- 4 c cooked rice
- 1 tbsp bagoong (Ilok) na isda
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp calamansi juice
- 40 g spring onion
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Sauté white onion, garlic, ginger in oil.

2. Add tomatoes.

3. Add cooked rice, sauté until thoroughly heated up.

4. Season with bagoong, soy sauce and calamansi. Mix in spring onions.

Gold Line Pasta—Western Approach

By Sonny Jayson H. Mariano, CCA

Rolled Spaghettini Filled with Kewk Mushroom Mousse and Bits o Negra, Cheese Stuffed Cherry Tomato Confit and Truffle Cream Sauce

- 150 g Divella Spaghettini
- As needed, Borges olive oil
- 3 pcs egg yolk
- 6 pcs baby shiitake
- 20 g porcini mushroom
- 15 g shallot
- 5 g garlic
- 90 ml heavy cream
- 30 pcs pasta sugue (size 2"x7")
- 120 ml heavy cream
- 3 ml truffle oil
- 8 pcs cherry tomato
- 120 ml olive oil
- 2 sprigs thyme
- 5 g sugar
- 40 g Mahon cheese
- 40 g Fontina cheese
- 40 ml white wine
- 10 ml balsamic
- 15 ml honey
- salt and pepper
- Italian parsley

1. Boil Divella Spaghettini pasta until al dente. When cooked, toss in olive oil.

2. Arrange the pasta in a cling film, brush with egg yolks. Sheets are four (for short bite version).

3. Braise shiitake mushrooms. Grill.

4. Shallot-mix sauce: Sauté shallots and garlic; add the chopped hydrated porcini mushroom. Add the mushroom stock. Simmer until ½ reduced. Add heavy cream. Season. Puree.

5. Stuffed cherry tomato confit: Slightly grill the cherry tomato. After grilling, assemble with olive oil, sugar and thyme in a pot. Simmer over low heat or in oven for 15 minutes. Cut the top of the tomato; fill with cheese fondue, gruyere.

6. Honey-balsamic sauce: Combine honey and balsamic, half-reduce.

7. Truffle cream sauce: Simmer cream, drops of truffle oil, salt.

My new pizza schedules are out. I will teach step-by-step cooking and the art of making fresh pizzas and pizzas. For information, call 09157-0995196, 0908-2572346, 4020490, 0289294.

E-mail the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

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A. LIPPY — BY JEFF HARRIS

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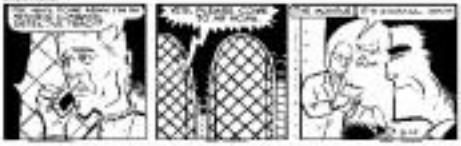

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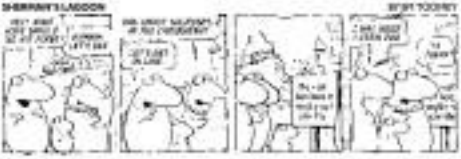

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at: www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle:

4	3	7	2	8	5	1	6	9
2	9	6	4	1	7	3	8	5
1	8	5	3	6	9	4	2	7
6	1	3	8	5	4	9	7	2
9	5	4	7	2	1	8	3	6
8	7	2	9	3	6	5	4	1
3	6	8	5	4	2	7	9	1
5	4	9	1	7	8	2	1	3
7	2	1	6	9	3	6	5	4

Concepts Sudoku

		3	7					
				3				
6		8	9			5		
1		2	6		3			
	7						6	
			1		2	9		4
		5			1	8		2
				8				
					6	1		

Weekly Unit ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Caffeine haunt with a plus

An innovation to the coffee lifestyle

By Yasmin Baya-Reyes

ON A LAZY afternoon, sipping a warm cup of coffee after consuming a bit slice of New York cheesecake can really brighten up your day. That's why there's no way you can avoid the mini craziness of the Eastwood Mall Promenade workers noticing that new coffee place called Cafeteria by Dimes.

At second sight, the sound and aroma of coffee being brewed and the sight of scrumptious desserts tell you it's time to stop shopping, relax, eat and have some.

The new place that's making a boom among coffee aficionados—and hearty eaters—has a diverse menu created by the same team behind gourmet hotspot Dimes Café in the Philippines and Malaysia, as conceived by Bistro Zenaire Ruegen.

Conscious continuously on fit, Manic afternoons it's packed with customers, young and old. Cell centers, condominiums and corporate offices in Eastwood City are already nearby.

It has a wide selection of specialty coffee blends—from locally brewed coffee to cappuccino, cold latte, café Viennese, vanilla latte and macchiato—with a choice of hot or iced blend at short or long.

CHEF Manolo Bonnaughy

SEAFOOD Pizza

Honey

The coffee haunt is simple and cozy—unpretentious, beautified tables, wooden chairs, glass tables and love chairs, and comfy couches.

Antique statues, chandeliers and wall clocks—all create the personal collection of the owner's taste—with soft lights, carefree coffee shop ambiance.

Apart from all this, there are the signature dishes of chef Manolo Bonnaughy—the result of kitchen tests and experimentations.

One of the most popular and sought after is Chef Manolo's Chicken Pot Pie, a very thick soup with diced chicken thigh fillets cooked in thickened cream and covered with puff pastry.

"It's a very rich and filling soup. I perfected it when I was still in Malaysia. It's an American family favorite. So I introduced it at Dimes and now also offered at Cafeteria," says Bonnaughy, who had worked part-time as private chef for an American family at Forbes Park.

Cafeteria also serves sandwiches and waffles, canapés, soups, pasta and pizza. Large plate entrées include Beef Belly Salpicao Steak, Grilled Pork Chop, New Zealand Beef Caldereta with Olives Pesto Pasta, Salmon with Garlic Salsa and Pork in Chipa Chee Buttered Fish Fillet with Cajun spice-crusted potato wedges.

Particular among breakfast packages are omelets and savory crepes, Cheese Hungarian sausage, Pinoy Longganisa sausage, Pinoy Beef pot roast, Bacon, country ham, Belly boot tapa and corned beef.

Special homemade dessert's include carrot cake, blueberry cheesecake, Devil's Food Cake.

Cafeteria by Dimes (call 4703060 or 4707221) is on the ground floor of the Eastwood Mall Promenade, Eastwood City Cyberpark, QC.

Chocolate caramel cake

CHAN HUO-SHENG Pre-ised Chocolate Caramel Cake. Available in "stores" opening soon where with Gladiago wine branch is located at the Mezzanine of Eastwood Mall in Libis. Bonifacio City. Call 4703585.

Mushroom cappuccino

The Prince Albert Patisserie at InterContinental Manila will take part in Philippine Tatler's Best Restaurants Day by Wood, Aug. 12-28, with a special Restaurant Week menu consisting of Mushroom Cappuccino with Caper Pompion Pies, Poppy Seeds Chicken and Tomato Crepe, Pan-fried Filet of Pacific Seabream with Potato Crisp, Carrot Mousseline Almond Glazed Poppy Seeds and Fresh Cut of Bacon and Lettuce Soufflé with Chestnut Vanilla, Chocolate Coffee Glazed Monster or Bon Bons. For payment of tables exceeding a dine donated to Manos Un Schools Aiding Me Rolf to fund educational programs for high achieving public school students.

DINING OUT

Fajitas

Texas Cowboy on Calle perfect El Paso Fajitas, choice of grilled juicy marinated chicken steak strips or fresh veggies sizzling over hot plate plate with bell peppers and onions.

Our signature Texas Beef Fajita, Chicken Fajita, Combo Fajita, all Veggie Fajita. Texas Flour Tortillas (extra amount of flour tortillas). We sell in Taguig (584 1167 and 856-2400) and Q. Pueblo Road, Bajac (8388713 and 8388715).

Beef shank casserole

Have a French feast at Restaurante Center's Gold Bistro and Sophie's Mediterranean Cuisine.

Gold Bistro offers French cuisine, savory cream, baked beef, galettes, dessert crepes, salads, sandwiches, especially steaks and fine wines.

Sophie's Mediterranean also serves beef shank casserole, grilled tiger prawns, chicken tikka and pasta, cheese and potato risottos, baked mussels, Nice cheese salad, apple pie, crème brulee and orange crepes.

Whenpple Center is located in Pasay, Makati, Mandaluyong City.

RODEO SAMPLER

Texas Smoke Ranchers Rodeo Sampler (Texas Sausages, Baby Back Ribs, Smoked BBQ Chicken, Beef Ribs, Spare Ribs).

Other dishes are Pepsita Shrimp Skewers, Cornea Bacon Wrapped Chicken, Buffalo wings, nachos, classic Caesar salad, rich tacos and Texas Lumber and Oreo chocolate Pie.

Texas Smoke Tavern is located at the 3rd level of Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center. Call 7180816.

PORK BELLY AND BEANCURD

Super Bowl of Chinese offers Shrimp and Seafood Curry Hot Pot, Pork Belly and Beancurd with Salted Fish Hot Pot and Sizzling Beef with Satanghon Hot Pot. Available for delivery and take out orders. Call 7178888.

CHICKEN 'ADOBO'

Kimbee Knight Hot Meal Delights at Night delivers from 6 p.m.–2 a.m. Monday–Saturday, in offices and homes around Metro Manila. Bestsellers are Seafood Curry, Pork Belly Sisig, Chicken Adobo, Beef Caldereta, Chicken Teriyaki, White Chicken Spaghetti. Also available are flavors from the Bulgogee, Bibimbap, Beef Strip Japanese-style Rice Chicken Teppanyaki, Pakadon, Pork Steamed, and Thai favorites like Pork Curry, Spicy Seafood Basil, Chicken Satay, Garlic Squid and Seafood and Vegetable Dumplings. Call 5190500 or 5192333.

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'Deconstructed tilapia' and other 'just Thai' food

Macao gave former newsman Rod Reyes a yummy idea

By Norma Chikiamco
Correspondent

Thai take-Asia and fishy tiramisu served as chaser

ROD'S FORMER newspaper editor Ted Reyes and wife Nina returned from a Macao trip, they couldn't stop talking about this Thai restaurant where they dined. The superb food was something they felt other people had to taste, too.

This gave their daughter Sonia an idea..."Why don't we open a Thai restaurant?"

After all she had operated her own Filipino restaurant at the Podium a few years ago and is a pioneer in a famous steak house. Opening another restaurant wouldn't be new to her.

Providentially, she knew a Thai chef who had worked in a big hotel in Bangkok. He taught Sonia, her brothers Jim-Jim and his wife Tawan all the secrets and techniques of Thai cooking. There they hired a work-ahead Thai chef also trained.

After months of taste-testing dishes, they finally opened their restaurant, which they named Just Thai.

Perhaps the word "just" is a bit opposite and an understatement. True, it serves "just" Thai in only Thai food.

The menu includes familiar Thai dishes such as chicken wrapped in pandan leaves, beef in red curry and tom yum, the hot and sour soup that's often compared to sinigang. "Just" would also mean "simply" Thai, which would likewise be true of the restaurant.

Décor

Its décor hints of the other and exotic(?) that had gone into creating that Thai ambiance, elevating it to being more than just "just."

On the first floor, guests are greeted by a wall of Buddhist monk statues mounted on pedestals, bearing begging bowls in their hands. This is reminiscent of another Buddhist statue on the stairway leading to the second floor, where gossamer curtains frame windows that look out into the gentrified neighborhoods of Bonifacio Global.

Orange-gold wallpapers add to the Oriental feel, enforced by the homey look of shiny, wooden floors.

Aside from the aforementioned dishes, other offerings include vegetable satay, a colorful mélange of green beans, broccoli, carrots, eggplants and tofu in an appetite-inducing pinkish-orange sauce; chicken satay on skewers, served with the standard peanut sauce; and honey-lime, with generous amounts of julienned green mangoes, shrimps, strips of scrambled eggs, chopped shallots and sweetened meat, all served on the side, for adults to be tossed together just before being eaten.

Also for tossing table-style is the Pad Thai, or shrimp rice noodles flanked by heaps of bean sprouts, chopped peanuts, chili powder, scrambled eggs, shrimps and wedges of green lemon.

The seafood dishes include crispy-on-the-inside, as well as fish pastes aerated with lemongrass, and deconstructed tilapia, with its flesh rolled into balls and deep-fried before being positioned back into the body of the fish. It is enlivened by a slightly sweet, viscous tamarind sauce.

In consideration of those who may not be accustomed to the chili-hot flavor of Thai cuisine, the restaurant gave customers the option of asking for a milder version of each dish.

Problem

Part of the problem of running a Thai restaurant is obtaining fresh ingredients such as kaffir lime and galangal, both co-existed in Thai cooking and not widely available in the market. Teresa has solved this by planting her own kaffir lime and galangal in her Batangas home, fresh plants luckily took to the soil and are now bearing fruit.

Although the restaurant opened only recently, the place is always full. Some customers, apparently pleased with the food and service, quickly become regulars and bring in friends and family who also become regulars themselves.

Just as enticing as the food are the prices, which are moderate. The chalk-on-pavilion and pad Thai are both P289 per order, while a very generous bowl of tom yum soup, which can be shared by two, is P318.

Just Thai is open daily for lunch and dinner. Bonifacio Global, Burgos Circle, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, call 4020758.

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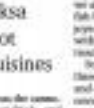

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

From steak to Singaporean Laksa —it's a melting pot of the world's cuisines

VANCOUVER, CANADA—I flew in on a Monday to meet friends visiting Vancouver for the first time. My wife Tessa had already brought them to places she knew they would find interesting.

This city has one of the widest varieties of authentic cuisine in the world. A melting pot of cultures, it will serve you out of delicious food.

Our first evening was in an authentic Italian restaurant in Yaletown, one of the city's interesting dining hubs. Chairman's a manned by Chef Rino Boninsegni, a very popular Italian chef who had a stint at Peninsula Manila.

As we walked in, we saw the famous cuppy Drake with a group at one table. Good choice.

Service was impeccable and the food was totally an excellent level. Some of my food pairs stayed: Italian sea tomatoes, Italian bread with first sauce, I had roasted soup with cream sauce with herbs, others had Parma ham with melon slices.

One main dishes were Italian steak or Bistecca, boneless roasted duck, served with truffle stuffing and Gruyère, which is like the French Emmenthaler.

We tasted a variety of desserts. I loved the cheesecake, which was covered with raw berries.

We all agreed the winner was the cannoli—a cone-like pastry deep-fried and filled with rich and creamy cream cheese. It's a "Godfather II" scene, it was the one being eaten by an old man in the concert.) Memories!

Tamarind Hill was another restaurant we enjoyed. It is a Malaysian restaurant that serves the best version of Indian Ali Curring (reddish of dente egg noodles with just a hint of "curry nature"), Char Kwai Teow (dark fat noodles with Chinese sausage), Singaporean Laksa (coconut broth with thin noodles), fish with curry sauce and deep-fried soft-shell crab dry toasted in onion sauce and freshly cracked black pepper.

We also went to a tiny Japanese restaurant along Cambie street called Tojo's Tatsu, where we had an unli of this world good old Sukiyaki with thin and tender slices of beef and variety of veggies. I loved the slices of marbeled wheels before served, were blow-torched in front of us and dipped in a little soy sauce. Bu-rio!

Not me, the virgin highlight was when three of our visitors took up our challenge and did the hardest mountain climb in Vancouver. This is the Grouse Grind—1 km of very steep climb.

It was one of the biggest challenges I had done. Their hands on the hips, gasping for air, they reached the peak of Grouse Mountain on four! What an accomplishment.

After their stay in Vancouver, they drove south to Seattle to check out the Pike Boulard market, then to Portland to shop for less, then to San Francisco for a meal at Tadich Grill, the oldest restaurant in California style, and finally home to LA.

Life is good!

Happy eating!

The old Chateau yields surprises

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Micky Fenix

TO GO up to the wine bar of Chateau 1771 in Greenbelt 5 you have to go through a grand door where the diner pulls you in with bright interior much like other eateries. It's the display counter that attracts the eye first. Nine majestic bellow scenic arduous eating and drinking experiences.

But then the eye wanders to the other end. Its light blue theme cools the eye, which wanders to the books lining the shelf. If there were no tables dressed up for dining, it would look like a classy library.

The old Chateau 1771 at El Pueblo Real in Ortigas had a lavelit and changed its name to Café. At the entrance is the first place, named Whimsy, bright and light.

The place set up like a library is The Lounge. This one be used as function room for 20 with a menu that included delicacies at the old Chateau. You feel so before, though, that one can get any item on the menu in any of the three places of the Café.

The third place is the Wharfside. In contrast to the bright and airy downstairs, the upstairs looks dark and foreboding with heavy leather upholstery and predominant black and brown. Its name suggests this is where you can imbibe wines. And the one who can admire you is Creole Manuelo, as she did for us that day.

Manuelo's studies were seriously, but gone through several seminars here and abroad. Fellow students herself for culinary schools and executives. The place earns praises for her judging from the customers that evening, mostly expats and those who work in offices near the Café.

Wine dispenser

An electronic, a high-end wine dispenser was installed recently. It's a great way to taste different wines. It's most effective if you want to get more than a whiff of the aroma. Servings vary, maybe just a sip to say that you drank it.

We had a Bordeaux Riesling Reserve 2008 from Alsace in France, nicely paired with the extraordinary dishes of pancit-canton and calamari fried rigatoni flavors enabled with kesong puti and anchovies.

For the next dishes, we had a King's Series Wrath pinot noir 2009 from New Zealand. The unusual name is characteristic of New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, as if to make fun of the old stodgy Old World wines. It goes well with the specialty of the house, a whole roasted organic chicken with cracked potato chips.

My favorite that evening was the pig's ears peppercorns, sliced thinly, sauteed in olive oil and garlic with chili. I recommended one of a dish to DE which I still dream of.

With friends the next day, we had that again, but this time taken with a wine recommended by Manuelo, a Chateau la Haye from the legendary wine country St. Emilion in France. Yes, it costs more and a leg but he's a get-together of friends, something special is required.

We were in good company that evening as other friends in wine savored to have found a quiet comfortable place to enjoy the company and wines.

Gutierrez's business sense

Eddy Gutierrez, one of the owners of the Chateau 1771 group of restaurants located in Rockwell, Greenbelt 5 and Ayala in Greenbelt 5, told me how he used to go to my mother's home to sell lumber. She must have found it amusing to see this scrawny, bespectacled young boy already an entrepreneur. With she could see how he has since collected art pieces displayed in the restaurants with famous names or paintings like Ruth Chavez and Phyllis Zaballero.

With restaurant's business sense and the culinary creations of chef Vicky Budoza, the restaurants have multiplied from the original Chateau 1771 in Makati. Budoza has created bestsellers through the years. There's the roasted beef sinigang in lemon, tiu and the coffee pie which can be ordered to take out. My favorite is the prawn salad in Chateau 1771 in Greenbelt 5.

E-mail pinoyfood50@yahoo.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Zulueta-G. Velarde

LOS ANGELES... Though she'll forever be a 7-year-old Afro girl, "Dora the Explorer" celebrates her 10 years on... niversary on Aug. 14. Dora was the first animated Latino character on TV in a leading role. Reuters

CHEER FACTOR

No talk, no mistake for Lovi

KATE PFF... daughter: "I'm prepared for anything now." NOEL ORPILLA

By Marinel R. Cruz

"VERY SENSITIVE" is how young star Lovi Poe describes the drug-related arrest of her actress husband, Rocco Sandiego, and she'd rather not talk about it.

Lovi, daughter of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., can only "hope everything will be OK."

The congressman, son of Rocco Sir Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, was arrested by immigration authorities on July 13 at the Hong Kong International Airport after he was found in possession of 26.1 grams of cocaine and two tablets of the sedative Valium. He was charged with "trafficking in dangerous drugs."

Just exhausted

Lovi was recently seen crying in one of the directing rounds of the GMA 7 variety show, "Party Pilipinas," where she is a regular host. A co-mummy reportedly had to gently dry actress.

Lovi denies that the incident was related to Singson's woes. "I was probably just exhausted," she says. "I didn't expect someone to see me."

But she is prepared to face media now. Lovi says, especially since the premiere of the new season of "Love Bug," which stars her and newcomer Rocco Sandiego, goes full-blast this month.

She knows that reporters will pressure her into discussing her relationship with Singson.

"I'm prepared for anything," she tells Inquirer Entertainment. "I've been through a lot. Having people in and out of my life, my home can be so inconsistent, but I manage to stay cool."

She is grateful for work, which keeps her busy. "It is therapy for me," Lovi says. She also draws strength from family and supporters, and prayers.

Lovi considers her recent three-day trip to Cabinet and Batanes in Palawan a welcome respite. She was there from Aug. 9 to 11 with Rocco to shoot some scenes for their TV series.

Infectious laughter

In the series, Lovi plays Ada, a journalist who goes to Batanes in search of a good story. She meets Xiang (Rocco) and falls him, thinking he is the legendary and exclusive prince Rafi from the Ibong Kingdom.

"I'm happy for this opportunity to work with Lovi," says Rocco. "She's very caring, approachable and very humble. She has an infectious laughter."

Rocco said he's aware of Lovi's worries these days. "I told her, Manggad tayong magkakasama. If you need a shoulder to cry on, I'm just here." She just laughed. I'm sure she understood what I was trying to say." Inc reinvents.

"Love Bug" premieres on Aug. 23 and airs for a month every Sunday afternoon on GMA 7.

FELIPE L. GOZON, GMA 7 head: "Kris Aquino star's ed with us. Our highest rating ever is for the last Judy Ann/Ruffy's interview with Kris. Mukti talaga si Boquiren, 'di mamalo 'yun."

OVERHEARD

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Willie network on the horizon

He has big plans and is in touch with TV industry bigwigs

By Ruyard San Diego Jr.

WILLIE Revillame

"MY HOUSE is the only somewhere (more [my years in] ABS-CBN," Willie Revillame [said].

He was referring to the house occupied by Gabby Lopez and Dolphy Gonzalez, which he bought from the network head.

He's being modest, to be sure. Aside from the Quezon City property, he is leading the Bayanihan network seamlessly, naive with a flagship reel house and a yacht, among other assets.

"Since I [left] 'yon," Revillame told Inquirer Entertainment.

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IMUS

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ANGELES

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4 YAMECHAV KRISH

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DUMAGUETE

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2 PREDATORS
3 THE LAST AIRBENDER

BACOLOD

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3 SALT
4 THE HOT TUB TIME MACHINE
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6 HATING KARATE

ILOILO

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3 GROWN UPS
4 SALT
5 GHOST HOUSE
6 LETTERS TO JULIET

DENSAN

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3 FURRY VENGEANCE
4 SALT

ILOCOS NORTE

1 SALT
2 THE LOSERS
3 FURRY VENGEANCE

Portia DeGeneres!

LOS ANGELES—Comedian Ellen DeGeneres' spouse Portia de Rossi has filed a legal request to change her name to "Portia de Rossi DeGeneres," according to a court document.

The request was filed on Aug. 6 in Los Angeles, but the document, which was posted on the Internet by E! Online, shows that de Rossi signed it in late March.

The couple was married in California in August 2008, when same-sex marriage licenses were being issued. Reuters

Willie network . . .

Continued on page B-3

He's saying goodbye to ABS-CBN with the confidence and resources to become his own producer . . . maybe his own network head, too. The unidentified bank plans to build a new sustainable business model for Willie's Wave Broadcasting Network and Quezon City-right Channel 46 (UHF).

"Ah, wait resurrection on Aug. 15," he said.

He is no longer managed by Arlene de Cartro, wife of former Vice President Noli de Castro, he said. "I will manage myself. My career will be handled by Still Production Inc."

He said it seems that he would produce his own show and that he wouldn't mind going in to a coproduction/block-timing deal with other channels.

About those rumors

Revillame has not discouraged rumors linking him with other networks like TV5, GMA 7 and even RPN 9, through its new head, Wilson Tieng.

"I go to talk with Wilson at a party. But we couldn't pursue anything since because I was still under contract with ABS-CBN," he said.

"That was precisely why he doubted (a "revival" by) Kapamilya contract. "Nong nabo ang kontrata can decide for themselves whether they can deal with me or not," he explained.

Considering himself a "freelancer" now, Revillame said he can also mount concerts here and abroad.

He says this latest controversy as a turning point. "Pro-roadkill a crossroads. I studied my decisions (to leave ABS-CBN) for a long time with my lawyers." He has learned an important lesson, he said. "I should ignore party intrigues and just focus on my work."

He disagreed with Kapamilya head Lopez's statement that "stars come and go, but institutions stay."

It's the stars

"You can have the best cameras in the world," said Revillame. "but if you don't have stars, what will you shoot? The stuff? Networks are built by stars." He hastened to add, "Whatever (here MBS-CBN) said: I have right now, we owe to the public."

He didn't hide his jealousy over the "network" on how the MBS-CBN prime time newscast "TV Patrol" and the Kapamilya radio stations dominate the night. (May 24) he met with Lopez to resolve issues.

Binoc-called

Nilanie Rosas (senior vice president for news and current affairs) insists on being independent," said Revillame.

He knew as ill feelings toward Robin Padilla and Rita Aquino, hosts of "Pilipinas Win na Win," the program that replaced "Showtime."

"It was their right . . . to accept the offer," he said, adding that Padilla first got in touch with him. "He just texted me about it." He hasn't heard from Aquino, he admitted.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1) STEP-UP 3 (3D) (REGULAR) 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
2) SALT PG-13 2:10, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
3) STEP-UP 3 (REGULAR) 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00
4) DRAG ON DPS PG-13 12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30
INCEPTION PG-13 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 8:00

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4 CHLOE / R 13 1:40, 3:45, 5:50 7:55, 10:00

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Unauthorized celeb books don't sell all that much

Did You Know...

NEW YORK.—Get Angelina Jolie to write a memoir, and it would be worth millions. But write a book about her, without her cooperation, and you are taking a chance.

Coming soon after the release of her latest film, "Salt," a biography has been published, "Angelina," by Andrew Morton, is not with an announced first printing of 150,000 copies and the promise of a "spellbinding" adventure.

Our hero's the bad news: "Some of tell-all celebrity biographies have been negatively impacted by information readily available on the Internet or in print," says Patricia Bostelman, vice president of marketing for the publishers Simon & Books Inc. AP

Insanely gifted unsung heroes

I DON'T THINK I've ever written about the unsung heroes of any long-running musical theater production—some of the most intelligent, quick-thinking, insanely gifted individuals in ever be part of a cast. I'm talking about the understudy and the swing.

The understudy

When speaking of the understudy, the film "All About Eve" probably comes to mind. I personally have not seen it, but I do have some idea of the plot: the star of the musical is unavailable resulting in the reign for her moment of truth, putting into practice some techniques that would make even Lolita blush.

Thankfully, I've been fortunate that no one (or none that I know of) has stabbed me in the back yet.

It's quite tough to be an understudy. Many of them know that they are not the performer that an audience has come to see, and are greeted as intruders. Unappreciated.

However, when I do hear that an understudy is about to go on in a show that I'm about to see, I get very excited and giddy for a number of reasons. One, it might be a good friend who's about to step onstage; two, I had already seen the regular performer—and could be in something or someone different; or three, the understudy is reportedly far better than the one on the marquee, because my jaundiced curiosity.

In a long run, two or even three understudies are matched by the creative directors, just in case something should happen to the regular performer (in "Miss Saigon," my alternate was nine-months-pregnant, and three were two or three years taller who were nearly and able as well).

In "Les Miserables," there was a regular Valjean, and two understudy Valjeans. As understudy also serves the purpose of being assigned to rehearse with an incoming company member, along with the male and female swing who'll play each and every role to spend the time rehearsal.

The swing

Now here is a company member who does not ever get paid enough for the blood, sweat and tears they invest in learning what they need to do a production.

The swing has the daunting task of learning each and every ensemble track that exists in a show. Depending on how large a show's cast is, as well as the physical and vocal demand placed upon it, there can be any male and two female swings per production. They know everyone else's choreography, stage placement, vocal harmony, costume plots, makeup, and hairstyle.

Our late Broadway "Saigon" female swing, the immortable Sylvia Dohl, covered the 10 ladies' ensemble tracks and at times, even a few of the men's. She knew which actor was where, which made her indispensable. Sylvia was nothing short of amazing.

We had three male swings for that show's original company: two to cover the dancing Dilid Enriquez and Henry Menendez) and one to cover the actors (Mario Ona, who was also our dance captain).

At one rehearsal, Sonny without even one bit of practice, had to step in for another actor in the "American Dream" number. He executed how everyone was in the routine, as he suddenly has eyes in the lineup, he was perfection. He knew the choreography, down to what angle his arms needed to be in. My jaw was on the floor. I was really impressed.

For "Lea," the rendering done of understudies and swings has been my own—over the few performances, due to dehydration, gastrointestinal distress, sprained ankles, aching backs, and other illnesses, there would be an actor or two who would have to sub the show in the middle of a number or right after the first act.

Sharyn Wimmy and Shubhum Gamora, our two leads in Manila, would then figure out which actor to place in which spot to cover up holes, at times covering up the holes themselves. Actually, Shubhum has stepped in to play Shyrkhanda (the tubby cat) when Darren Tyler fell ill, and Sharyn has had to quickly don a wimmel and dig on some make-up to play Cassandra (our fearless leader) when our regular gal, Jessica Clark, sprained her ankle during a curtain call.

One of our youngest cast members, 17-year-old Isabelle Shanks, has played three roles so far: Hawira (her regular swings swing track), Victoria (her whole cast), and Tarzanville (one more time).

Another swing, one of our cast swings, has played George (his own track), Monsieur (the Napoleon of crime), Jimmy (the arrogant one), and Corporal (the other one).

Melissa Charles (Olivia) has played Anonymous (with accompanying tap dancing) while Nikki Jimmy, our regular Jenny, has thus far played Jellylorum (the soprano one) and Bombalurina (female party thrill). Glen Oliver (Alonzo) has stepped in for Mandelwhisky, and Stephanie Silcock (Victoria) has covered for Jellylorum.

Yes, the show must go on, and it does in large part due to the incredible talents of understudies and swings.

Lea Salonga

BACK STORY

A question of copyright

Steve Lualhati Bautista (lualhati_bautista@yahoo.com)

FEEDBACK

IT IS so easy to say, "Go to court, file your case," when we all know that once battles run their course's resources and take years of waiting for resolution. What I desire right now is for our experts on copyright laws, like the members of the Intellectual Property Office and Filipino Copyright Licensing Society, to become aware of the many controversies arising regarding the "copying of ideas" that plague the film industry, help define to writers and directors what really constitutes copyright infringement versus plagiarism. In reality, in the very least, the misappropriation of the word "plagiarism", in the process also help us realize the parameters of one's ownership to one's intellectual property as opposed to non-exclusivity of ideas—a most convenient excuse. Then and only then can we, as the film and in the academic community, benefit from the various occurrences that arose in the past and maybe avoid future squabbling on issues that affect the integrity of our craft.